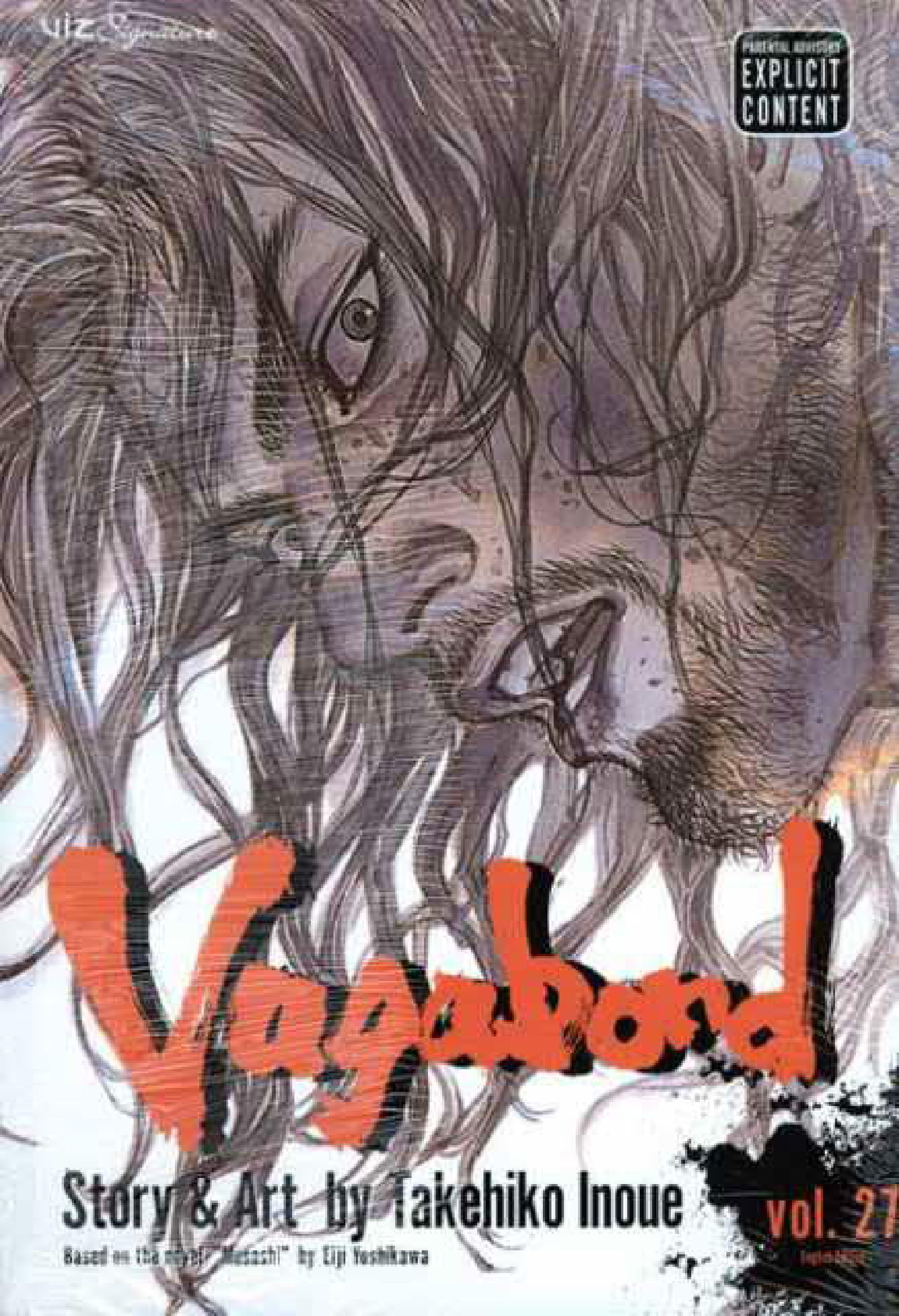

EXPLICIT CONTENT
Vagabond
Story & Art by Takehiko Inoue
vol. 27

9784063726404
1929979005245
雑誌 42667-40
ISBN978-4-06-372640-4
C9979 ¥524E(0)
モーニングKC 講談社 定価:本体524円(税別)

VAGABOND BY INOUE TAKEHIKO

身体というテーマを描きたくてこの作品を選んだのか
この作品だから身体というテーマへ導かれたのか
明け方に一人で絵を描いているときふと思う
まだまだではありながら腰の入った身体使いが描けたとき
感謝の気持ちで満たされる
楽してたまらなくなる

井上雄彦

Cover Illustrations by Inoue Takehiko
Designed by Tetchisa Tajima for Tbeesdays
Published story in Japan by Kodansha, Ltd. "Morning"
©2007 Copyright by I.T. Planning Inc./Eimei Yoshikawa
All rights reserved. Title logo Designed by Hiroyumi Takakuwaki
www.itplanning.co.jp/

Vagabond Vol. 27

VIZ Signature Edition

Story & Art by
Takehiko Inoue
Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa

English Adaptation/Yuji Oniki
Touch-up & Lettering/Steve Dutro
Cover & Graphics Design/Izumi Evers
Editor/Andy Nakatani

Editor in Chief, Books/Alvin Lu
Editor in Chief, Magazines/Marc Weidenbaum
VP of Publishing Licensing/Rika Inouye
VP of Sales/Gonzalo Ferreyra
Sr. VP of Marketing/Liza Coppola
Publisher/Hyoe Narita

© 1998-2008 I.T. Planning, Inc.

Originally published in Japan in 2007 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
English translation rights arranged with I.T. Planning, Inc.
All rights reserved. Although based on historical sources, the stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

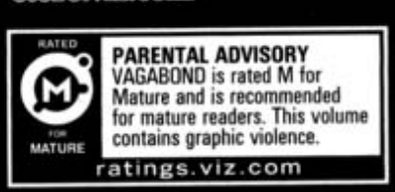
Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, March 2008

VIZ media

www.viz.com
store.viz.com



Visit Inoue Takehiko on the web:
www.itplanning.co.jp

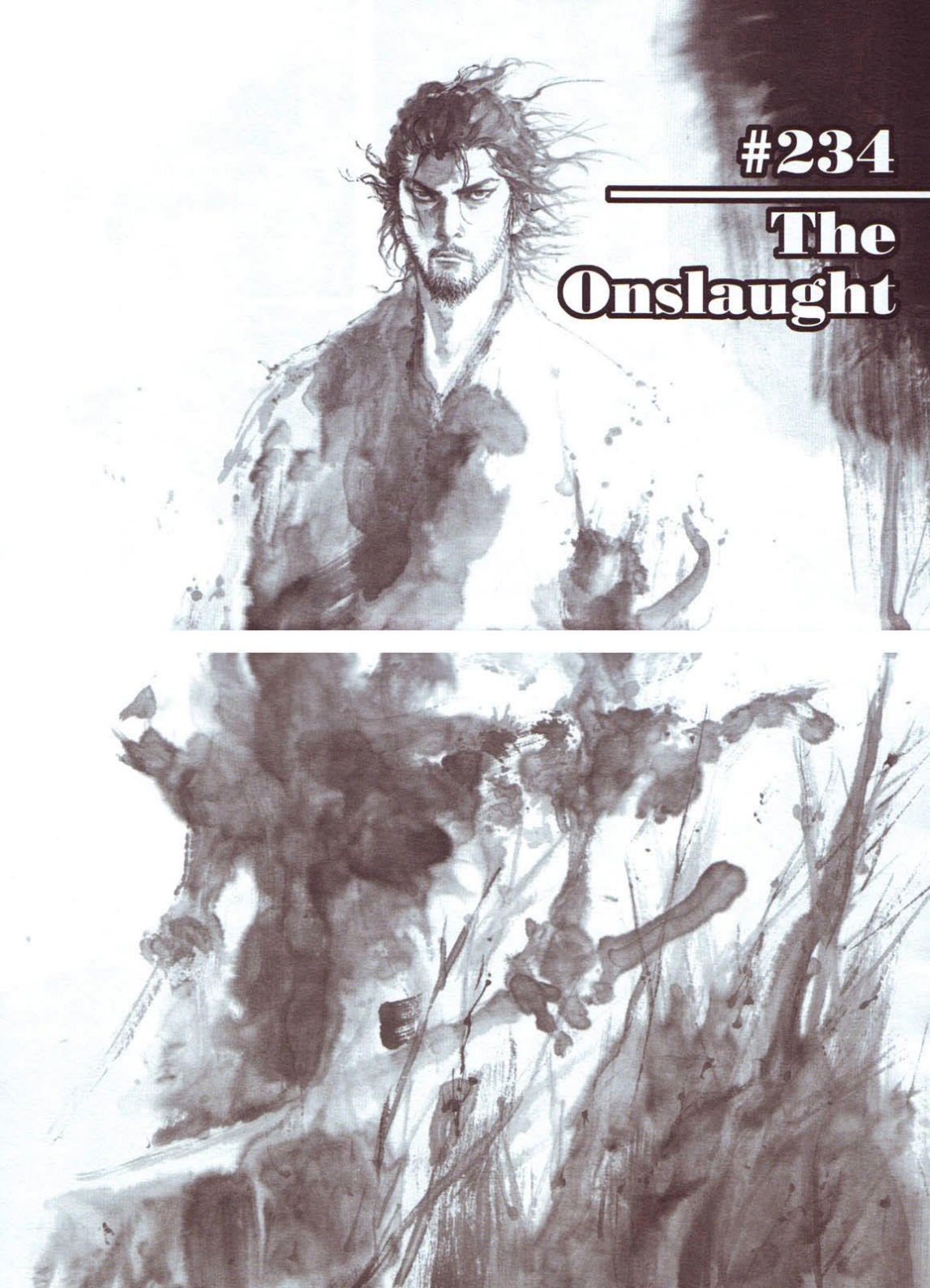
Vagabond

vol. 27

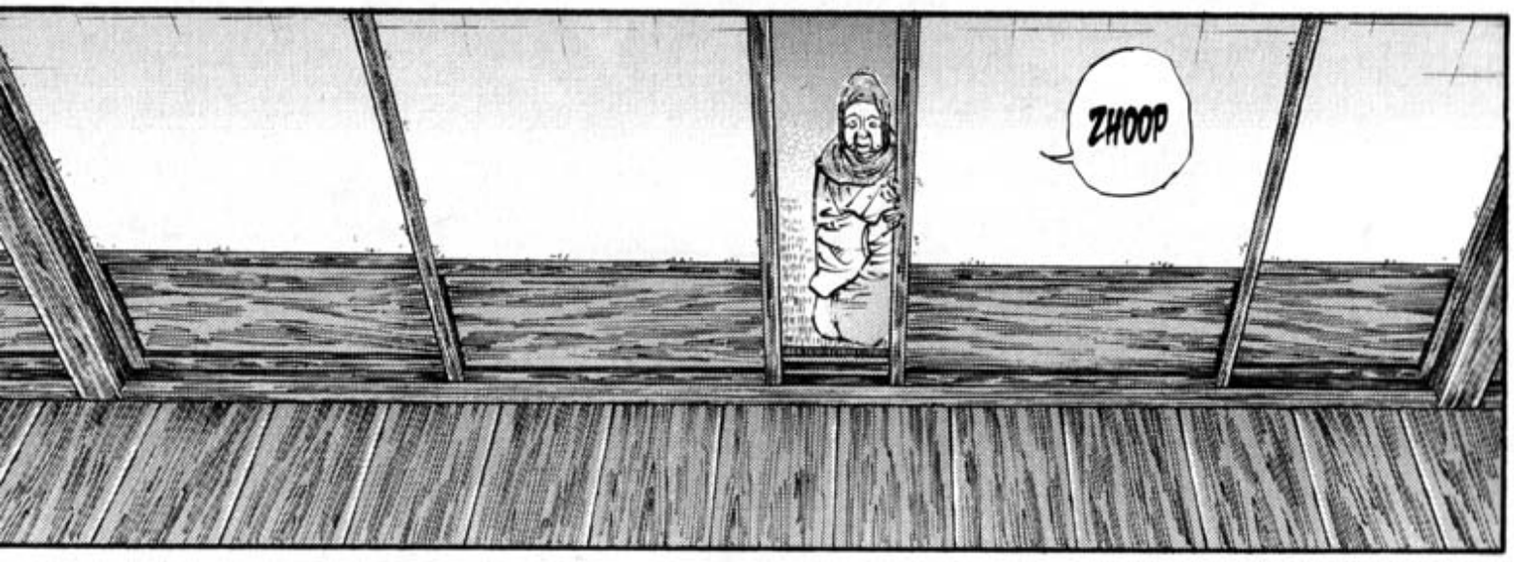
Story & Art by Takehiko Inoue

Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa

MUSASHI CUT ME DOWN...
KAHH
KAHH
U-UEDA ...!
...BUT MY EYES STILL SEE.
MY HANDS STILL HAVE USE...


#234
The
Onslaught

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF


ZHOOP

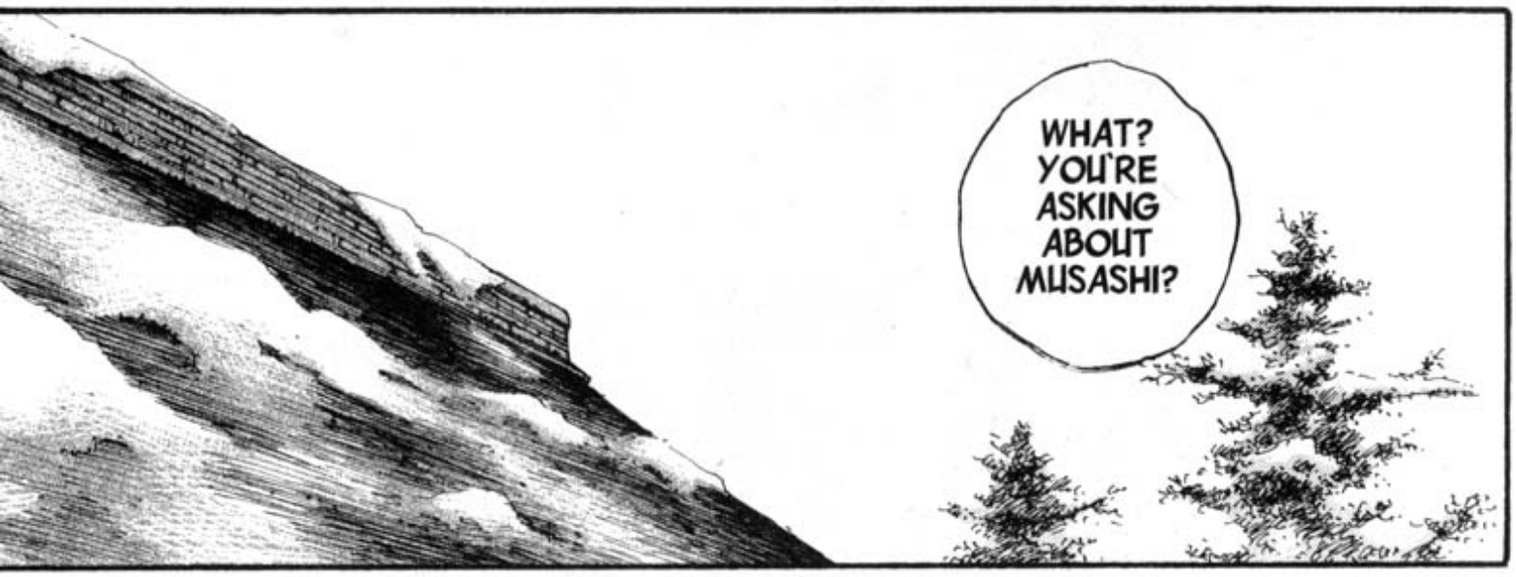
CHIRRP

CHIRRP
CHIRRP

YOU'RE UP EARLY.
MY...

GOOD MORNING TO YOU TOO, KOJIRŌ.

AHHH.


WHAT? YOU'RE ASKING ABOUT MUSASHI?

HE'S GONE.
I BELIEVE HE SAID HE WAS LEAVING KYOTO.

(MUSASHI)

武蔵

武蔵

NO...
SEE, YOU NEED TO ADD A STROKE HERE AND HERE. AND...

...

YOU ALMOST HAVE IT!
武蔵

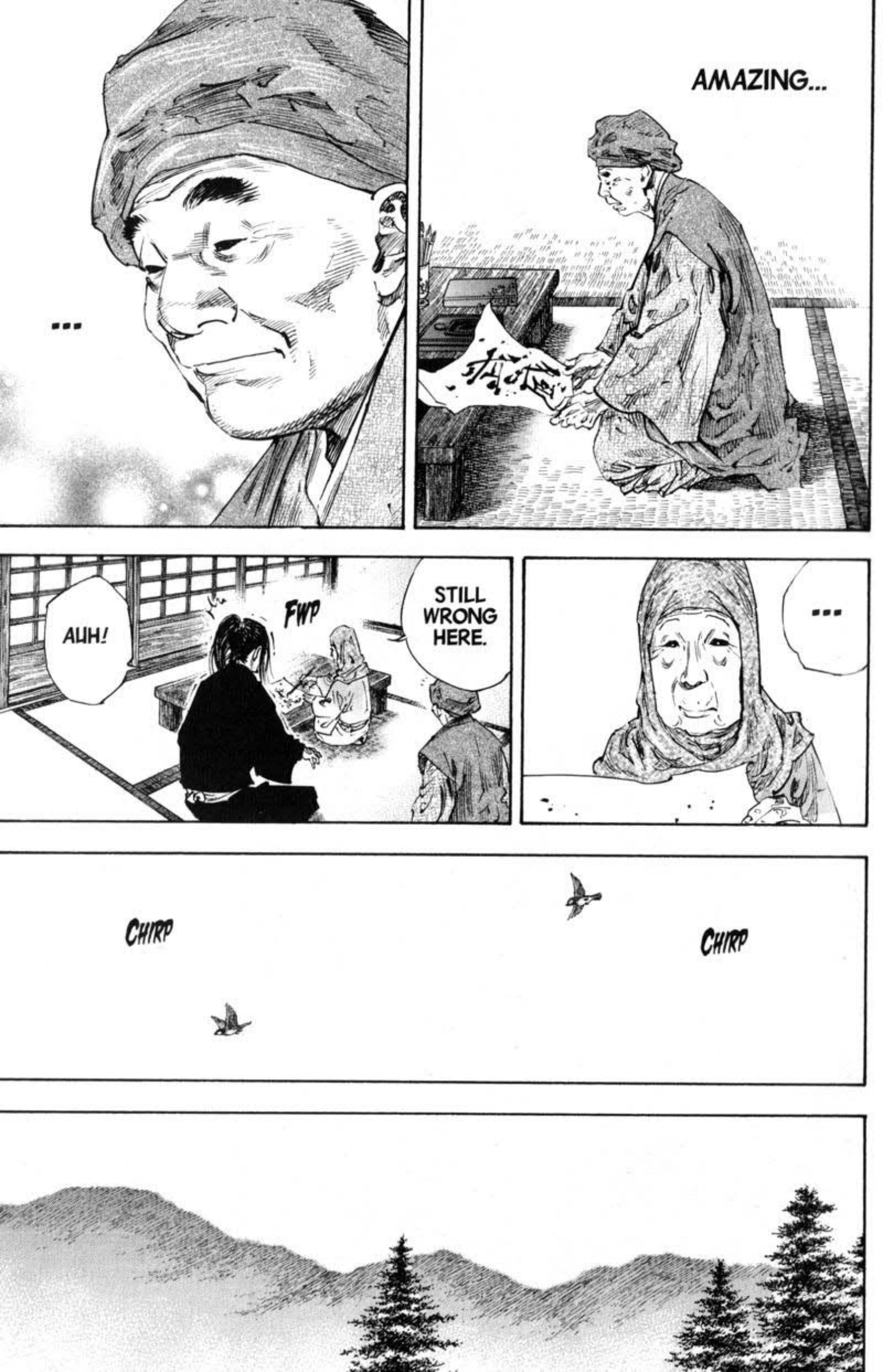
HE'S STOPPED BRINGING GIRLS OVER, BUT NOW...

"MUSASHI" ...

"WHERE'S MUSASHI? WHERE'S MUSASHI?"
HE ASKS AT LEAST THREE TIMES A DAY.
THEY MUST HAVE STRUCK A CHORD WITH EACH OTHER.
FSH
HMM...

FSH

AHHH...


...
AMAZING...
AUH!
FWP
STILL WRONG HERE.
...
CHIRP
CHIRP

GOT HIM!
GO FOR HIS EYES!

!!

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SORRY!
IS IT THE MUD?
HUH? MY EYES...
NO...
ATTACK HIM ALL AT ONCE!

DIFFERENT
COLORS.

YOU BASTARD!
I'LL KILL YOU!
THUNK
YOU'RE LYING.
HUF
HUF
HUF

IN A TRUE FIGHT, OPPONENTS MUST BE MUTUALLY PREPARED FOR DEATH.
YOU'RE IN THE WAY.
YOU DON'T HAVE THE RESOLVE TO DIE.

IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, I'LL LET YOU GO.
...?!

YOU--!
Y-YOU BASTARD!

JUST DON'T COME NEAR ME.
BECAUSE IF YOU DO--

D-DAMN YOU!!
YOU LEAVE ME NO OTHER CHOICE...

THWK

Vagabond

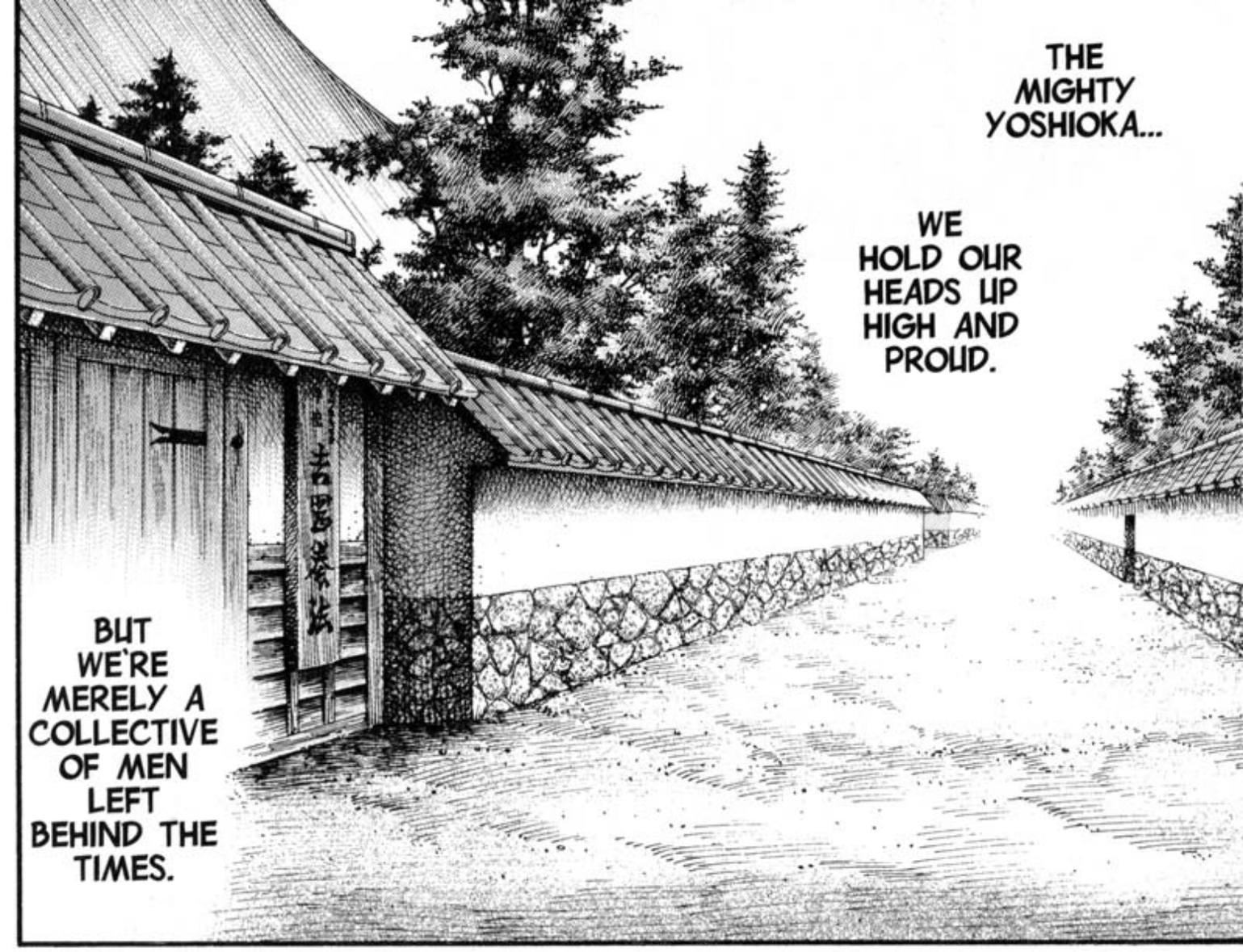
(A MISTAKE.)

#235 Depth

FICH
DAMN IT.
THIS IS FUTILE ...

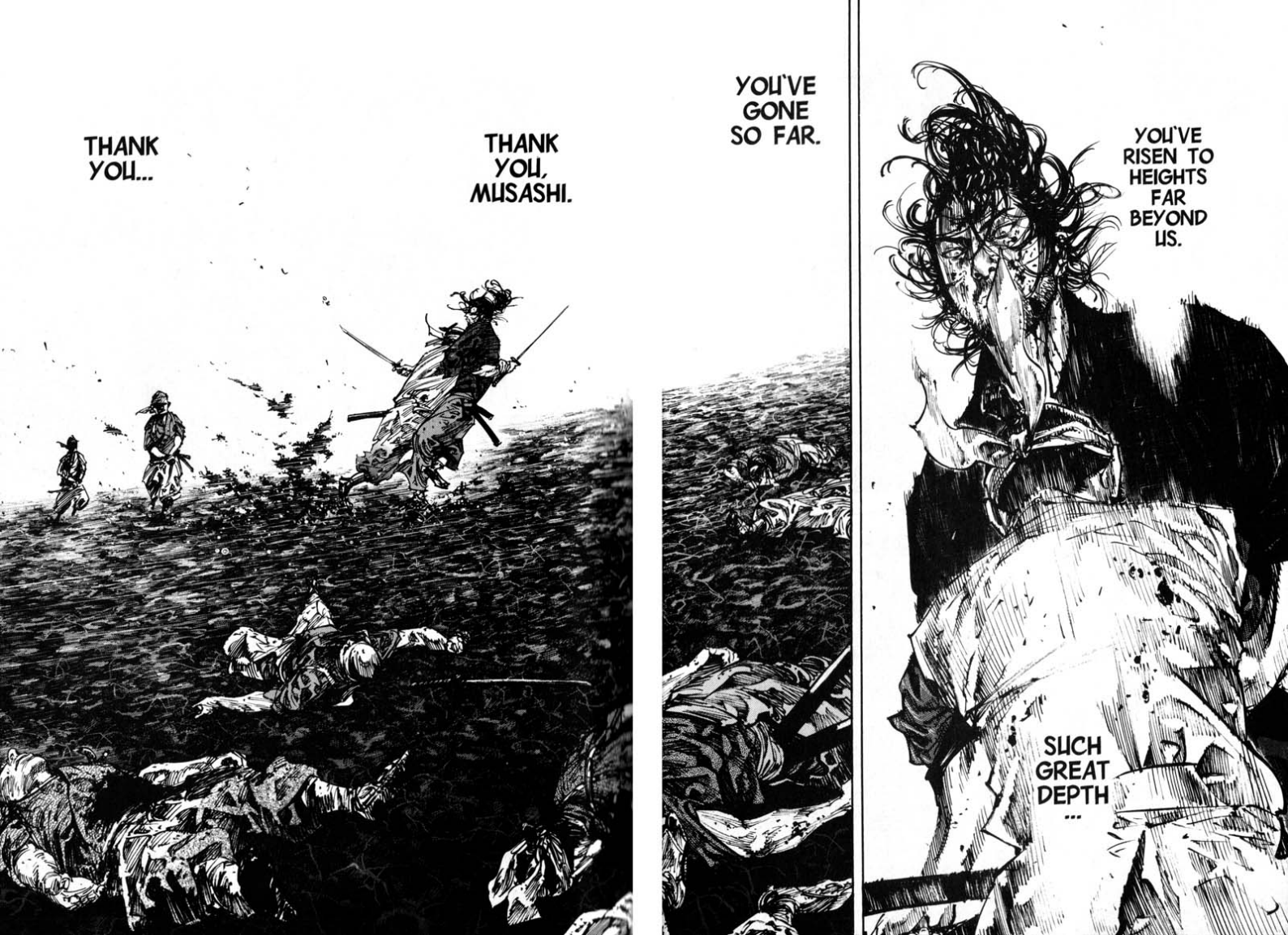
THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS...

...THE ERA OF THE SWORD IS LONG GONE.


THE MIGHTY YOSHIOKA...
WE HOLD OUR HEADS UP HIGH AND PROUD.
BUT WE'RE MERELY A COLLECTIVE OF MEN LEFT BEHIND THE TIMES.

IT'S TOO LATE FOR US TO FIND ANOTHER WAY...
UTTERLY DISPLACED, WE STILL ACT NOBLE.

GRAH ...
KRAK
NNGH !
BUT YOU SAVED ME. MEETING A MAN LIKE YOU...
GRAB !!
...I DON'T REGRET LIVING BY THE SWORD.
...IT MADE ME REALIZE...


THANK YOU...
THANK YOU, MUSASHI.
YOU'VE GONE SO FAR.
YOU'VE RISEN TO HEIGHTS FAR BEYOND US.
SUCH GREAT DEPTH ...

RUSH HIM ALL AT ONCE!

YAHHH!!
HUF
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF
HUF
MOVE AWAY FROM HIM, YOICHI SENSEI!
CUT HIM!! DO IT NOW!
HURRY!
THIS IS IT FOR ME...
BUT YOU'LL BE--
COME ON NOW, ALL AT ONCE!
GO RIGHT THROUGH ME TO STAB HIM.

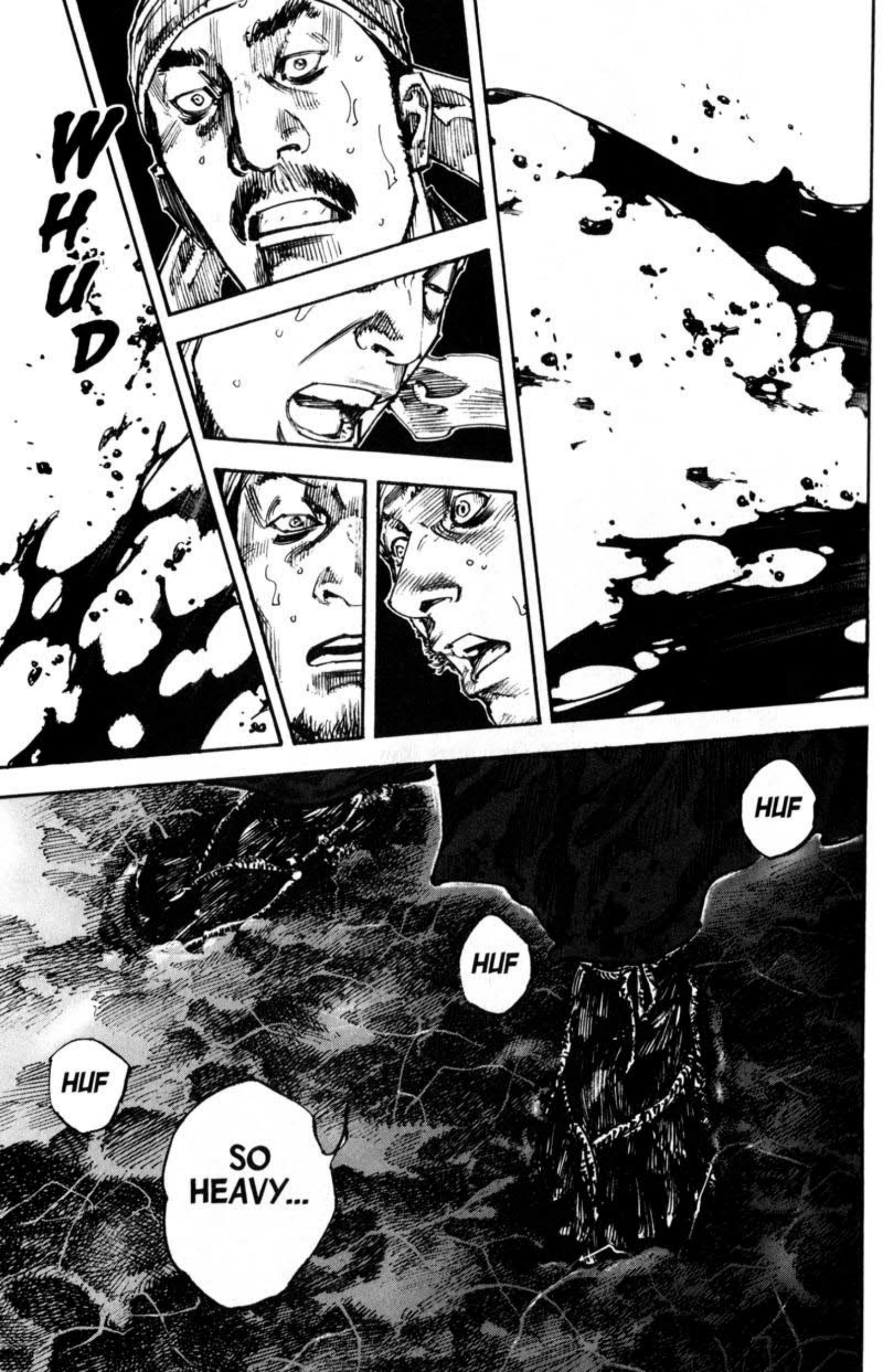
!!
HOW MANY HAVE ALREADY DIED? FORGET ABOUT ME!
FOOLS!

KRAKK
?!

....!!
SHF

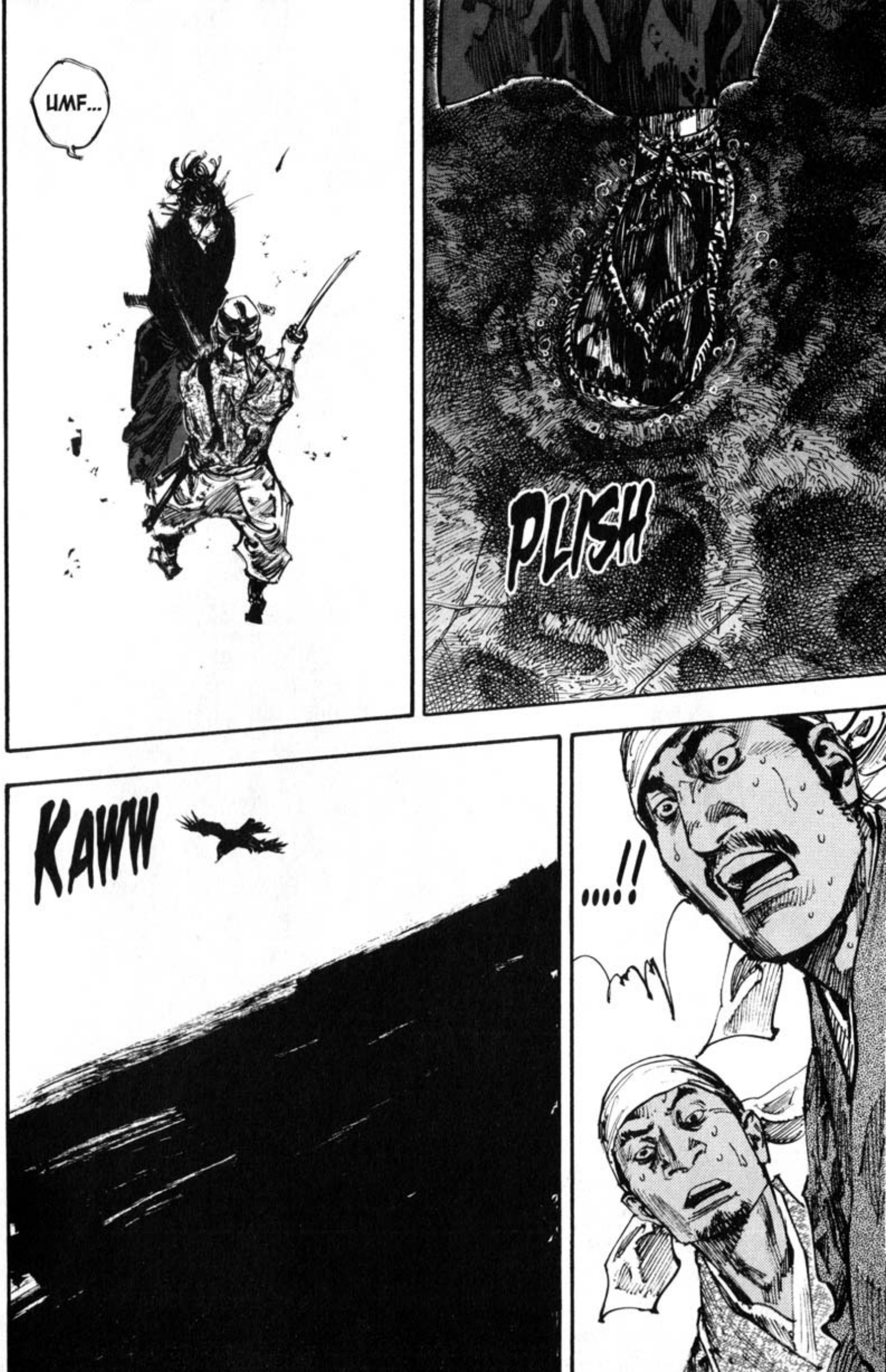
YOICHI SENSEI!
PLISSH

ZLOOSH

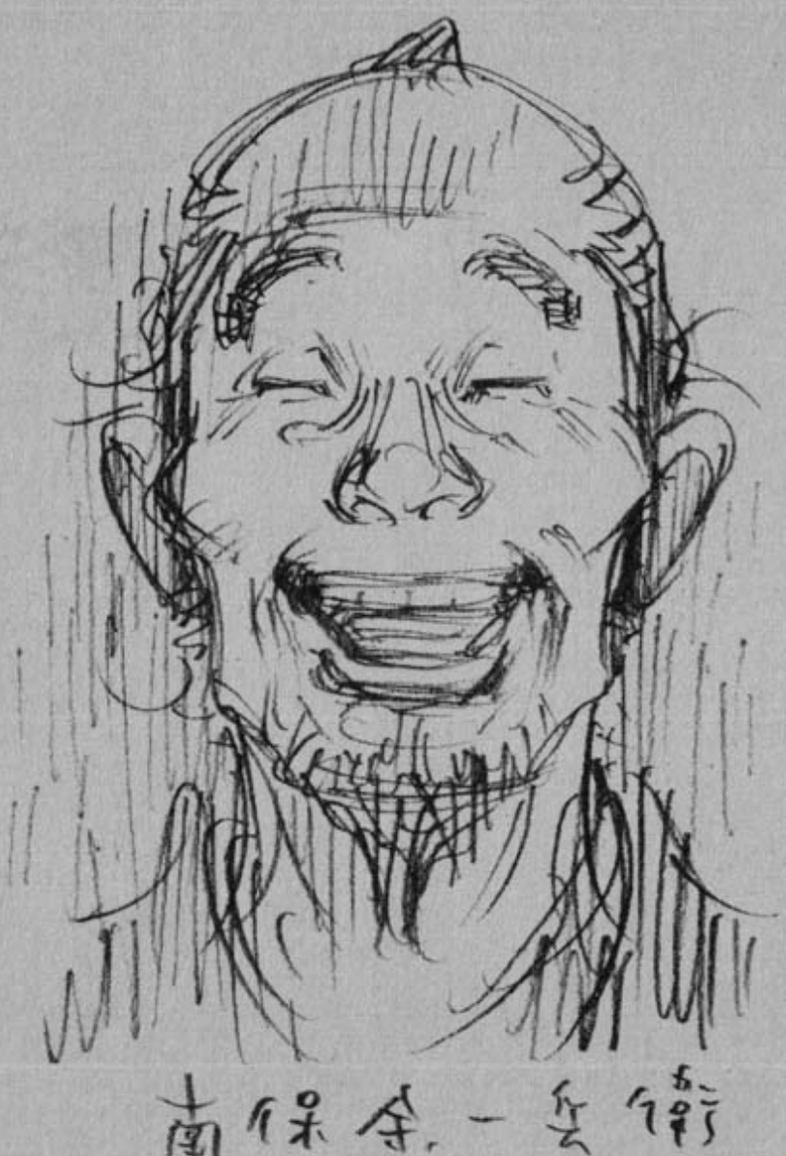

WHUD
HUF
HUF
HUF
SO HEAVY...

HYUU

MY BODY FEELS... HEAVY.
EVERY-THING'S SO HEAVY.
HUF


UMF...
PLISH
KAWW
...!!

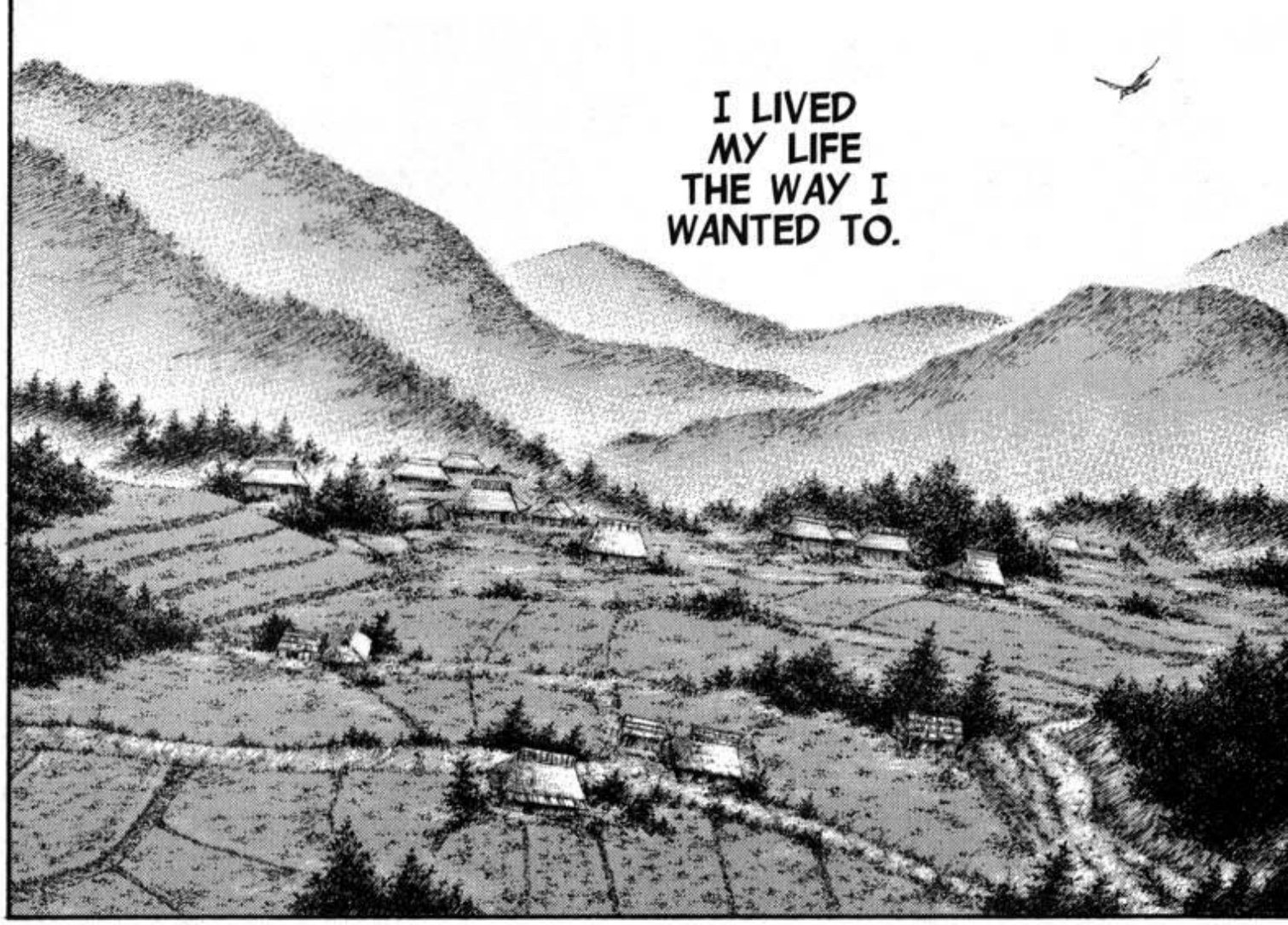
Vagabond



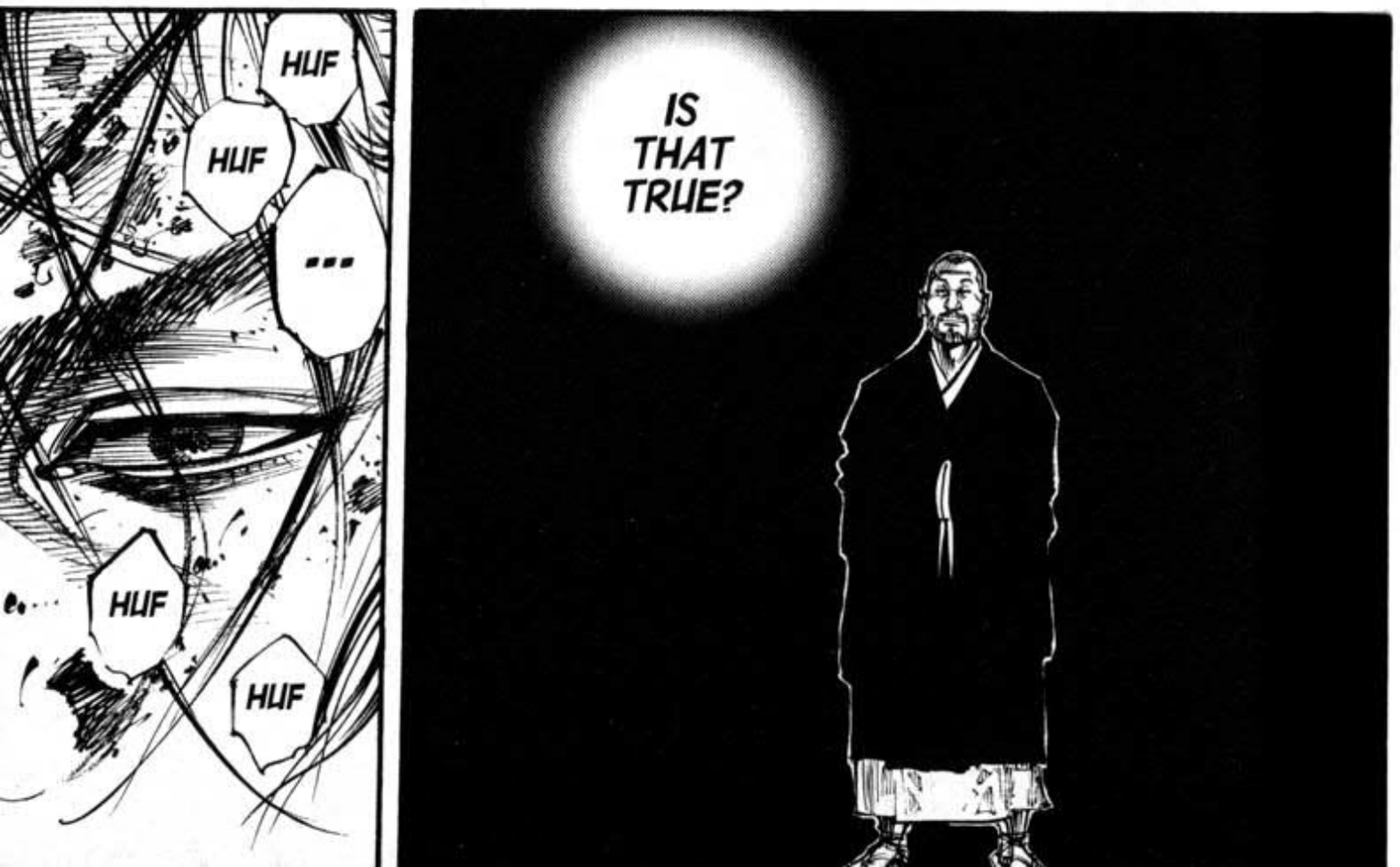
(NANPO YOICHIBEI)

FWAP
HUF
HAK
HUF
I'M FIN-ISHED.
I CAN'T EVEN MOVE.

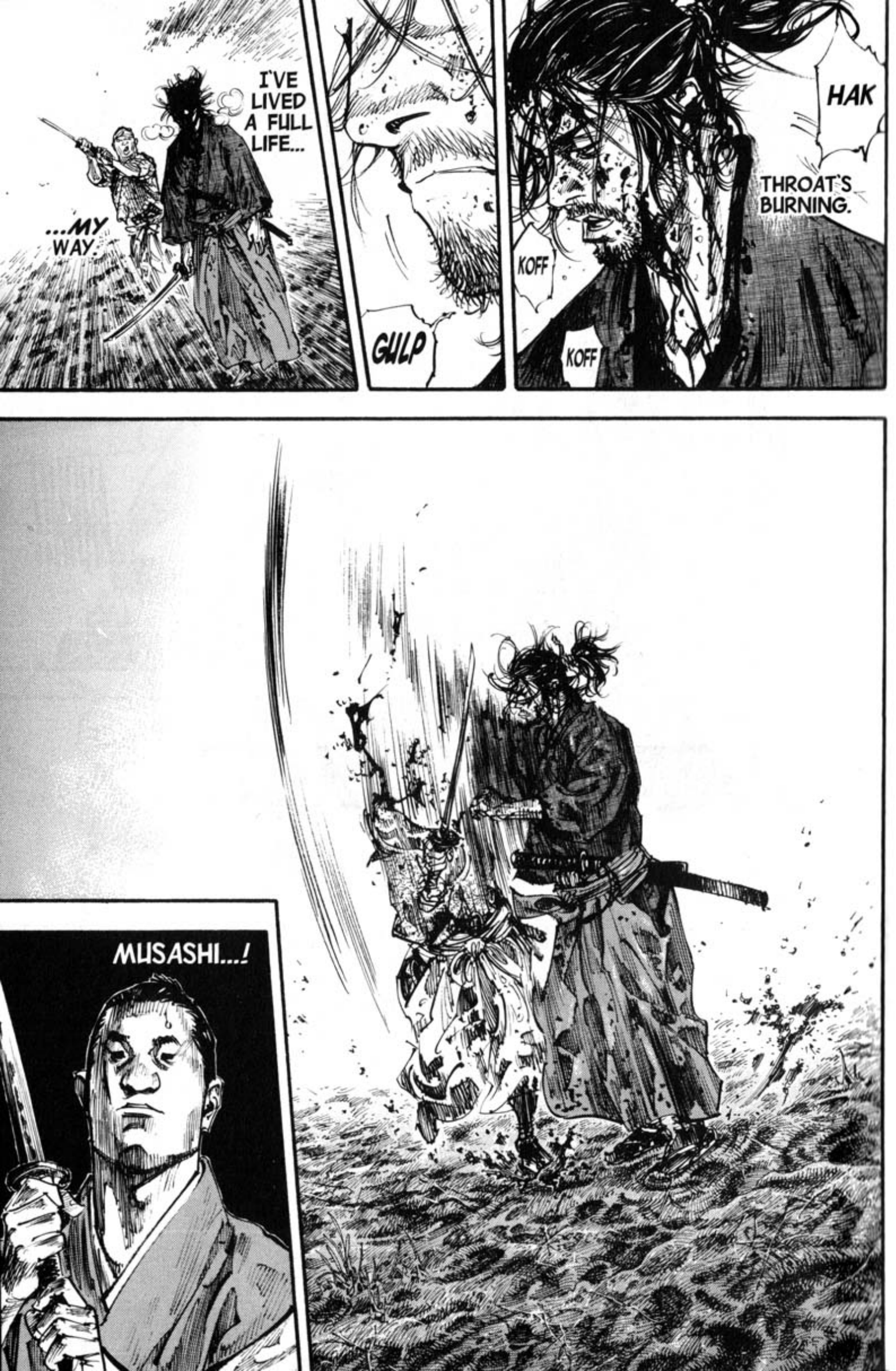
I'LL DIE AT THE END OF THIS RIDICULOUS CARNAGE.
YES, THAT'S GOOD...
#236
Battle Threshold
I SHOULD JUST LIE DOWN.
I'VE DONE ENOUGH.


I LIVED
MY LIFE
THE WAY I
WANTED TO.

!!!!!
WHUD
...
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF


HUF
HUF
...
HUF
HUF
IS THAT TRUE?

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
!!
!!!!


I'VE LIVED A FULL LIFE...
...MY WAY.
GULP
HAK
THROAT'S BURNING.
KOFF
KOFF
MUSASHI...!

THAT LOOK IN HIS EYES...
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
AHHH!!
AHH!
WHERE IS HE LOOKING ?
HUF
HUF
HUF
...ANYTHING AT ALL?
CAN HE EVEN SEE ANY-THING...

SLISH

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
SLOG...
HUF
...
HUF
MUST ATTACK ...
PLISSH
...THE FORCE BEHIND HIS SWORD HAS INCREASED ...?
AND YET...
HE'S COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED.
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

SLOG
!

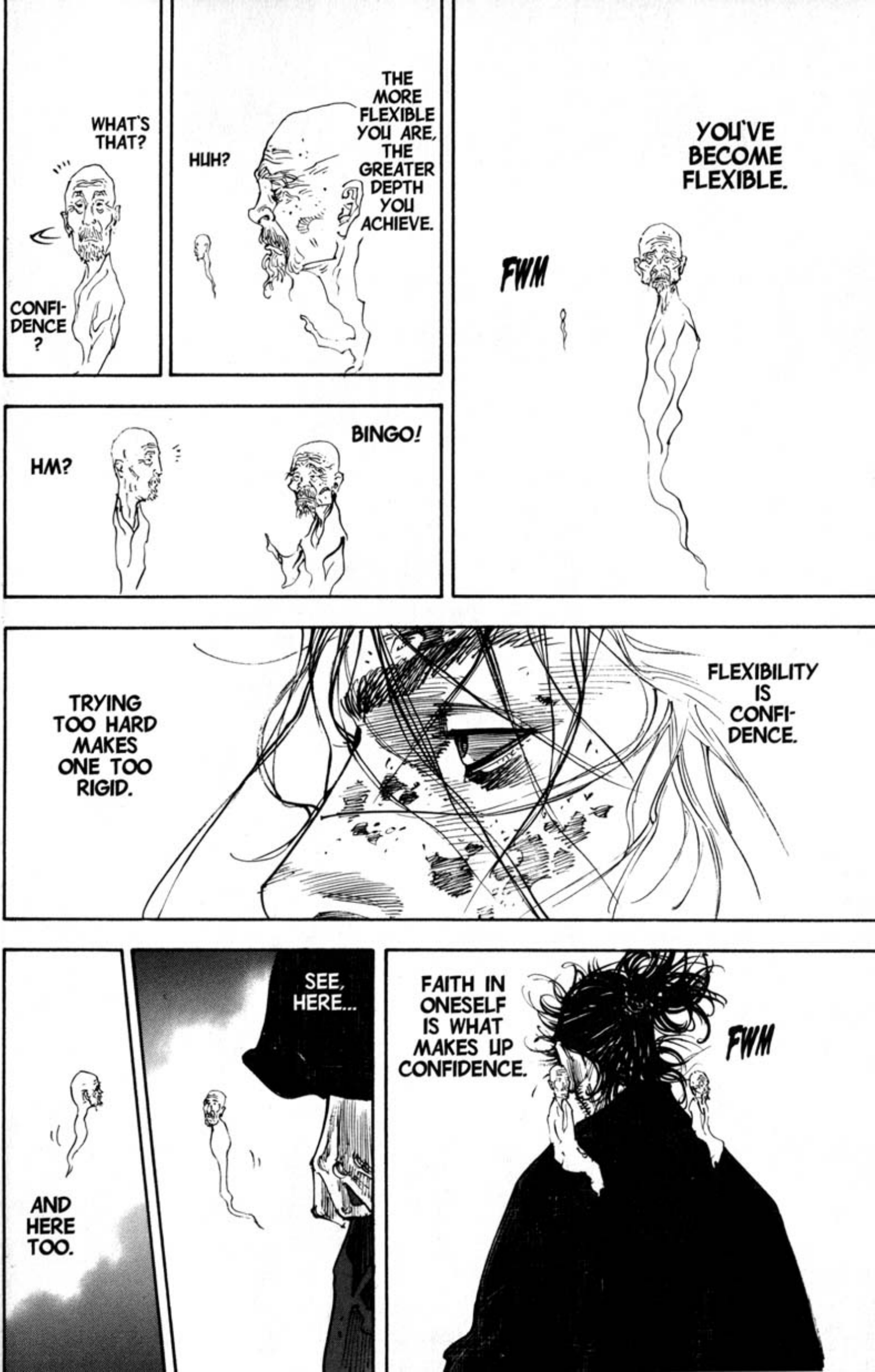
YOICHI SENSEI ...
SEN-SEI...
...
HUF
HUF
FWOM
HUF
HUF
HUF
BRRR
BRRR
WE MUST RUSH IN ON HIM ALL AT ONCE...
TOGETHER...
YAHHH!!!

SLOGG!
!!
FWOMM
...
HE'S STAGGER-ING.
DON'T LET UP ON HIM!

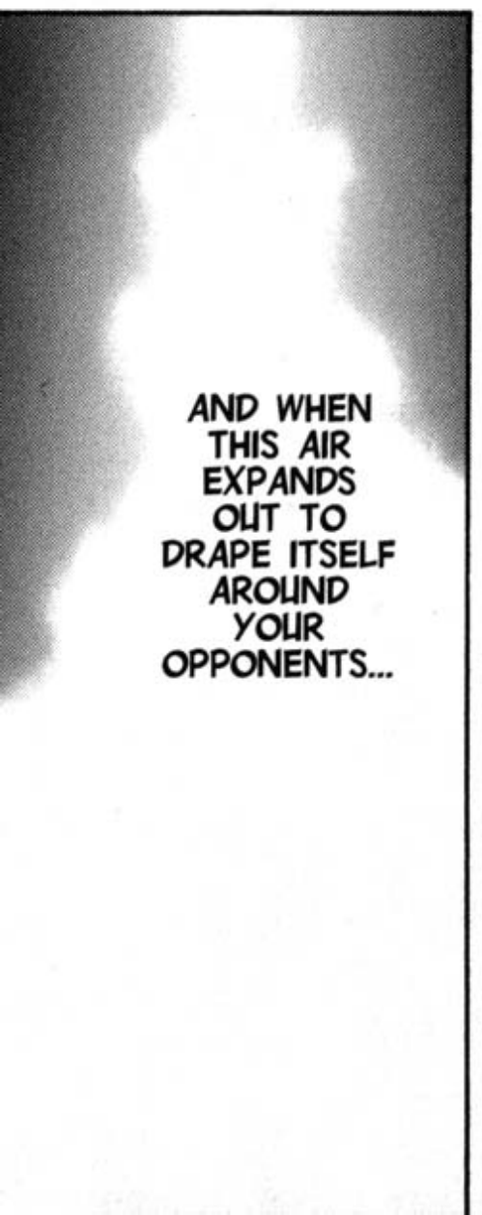
SLOGG...
ZLISSH
!!!!
ZSH
WHUD
SLOGG...

HUF
WHUDD
HUF
HUF
...
FWOM
PLISH
...
HUF
HUF
HUF
KCHK

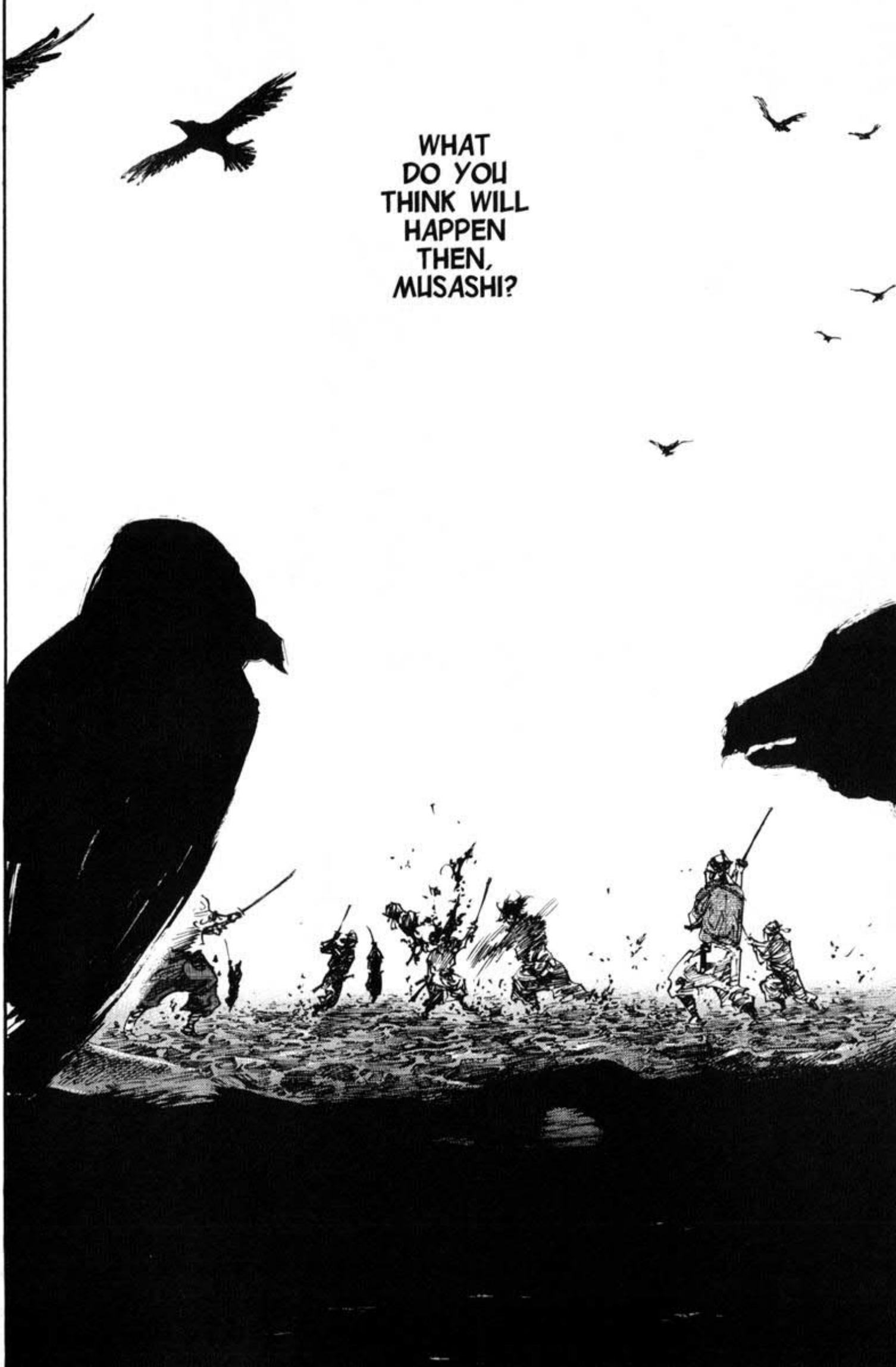
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF


WHAT'S THAT?
CONFI-DENCE ?
HUH?
THE MORE FLEXIBLE YOU ARE, THE GREATER DEPTH YOU ACHIEVE.
YOU'VE BECOME FLEXIBLE.
FWM
HM?
BINGO!
TRYING TOO HARD MAKES ONE TOO RIGID.
FLEXIBILITY IS CONFI-DENCE.
AND HERE TOO.
SEE, HERE...
FAITH IN ONESELF IS WHAT MAKES UP CONFIDENCE.
FWM

HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE VERY AIR THAT SURROUNDS YOU.
EXPAND YOURSELF OUT...


AND WHEN THIS AIR EXPANDS OUT TO DRAPE ITSELF AROUND YOUR OPPONENTS...

AS LONG AS YOU REMAIN ENVELOPED IN THIS PLIANT AIR...
HRMPH
...YOU WILL FEEL INVINCIBLE.


WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN THEN, MUSASHI?

Vagabond

(BINGO!)
ピンポン

#237

Somewhere Along the Way

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

SLOGG...
HUF
HUF

SLOGG...
HUF
HUF

SLOGG
S--

SLOGG!
WHUD
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

SLOGG...
WHUD
IT'S AS IF HIS ARMS, NO, THE TIP OF HIS SWORD...
...HAS A LIFE OF ITS OWN.
...
HUF
HUF
BUT STILL...
NOT AS IF I CAN TRULY GRASP WHAT IT IS.
I CAN'T REALLY SEE THROUGH HIS TECHNIQUE.
...IT MAKES ME WANT TO PRACTICE MORE.

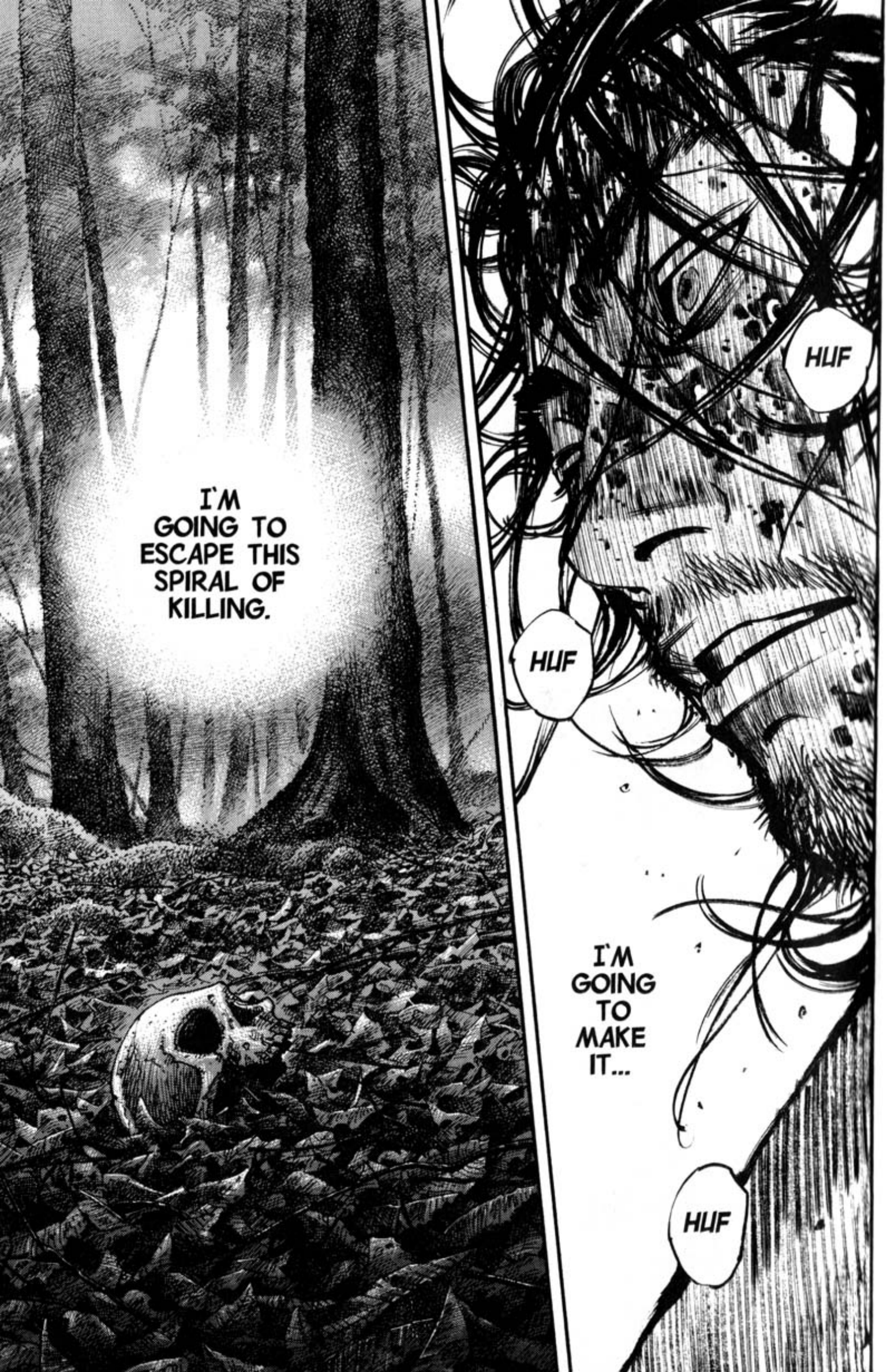
THIS IS MY CHANCE...
...EVEN NOW...
I FEEL AS IF...
I CAN STRIVE TO ACHIEVE GREATER HEIGHTS.
SLOGG...

KATHUNK
...GREATER HEIGHTS...

HUF
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
ONLY THIS MANY LEFT?
HUF
HUF
...
HUF
HUF

HUF
...THIS HELL...
HUF
I CAN GET OUT OF THIS...
HUF
I'M GOING TO MAKE IT...
I'LL LEAVE KYOTO.
HUF
HUF
HE'S LOOKING TOO FAR AHEAD.
OH?


I'M GOING TO ESCAPE THIS SPIRAL OF KILLING.
HUF
HUF
I'M GOING TO MAKE IT...
HUF

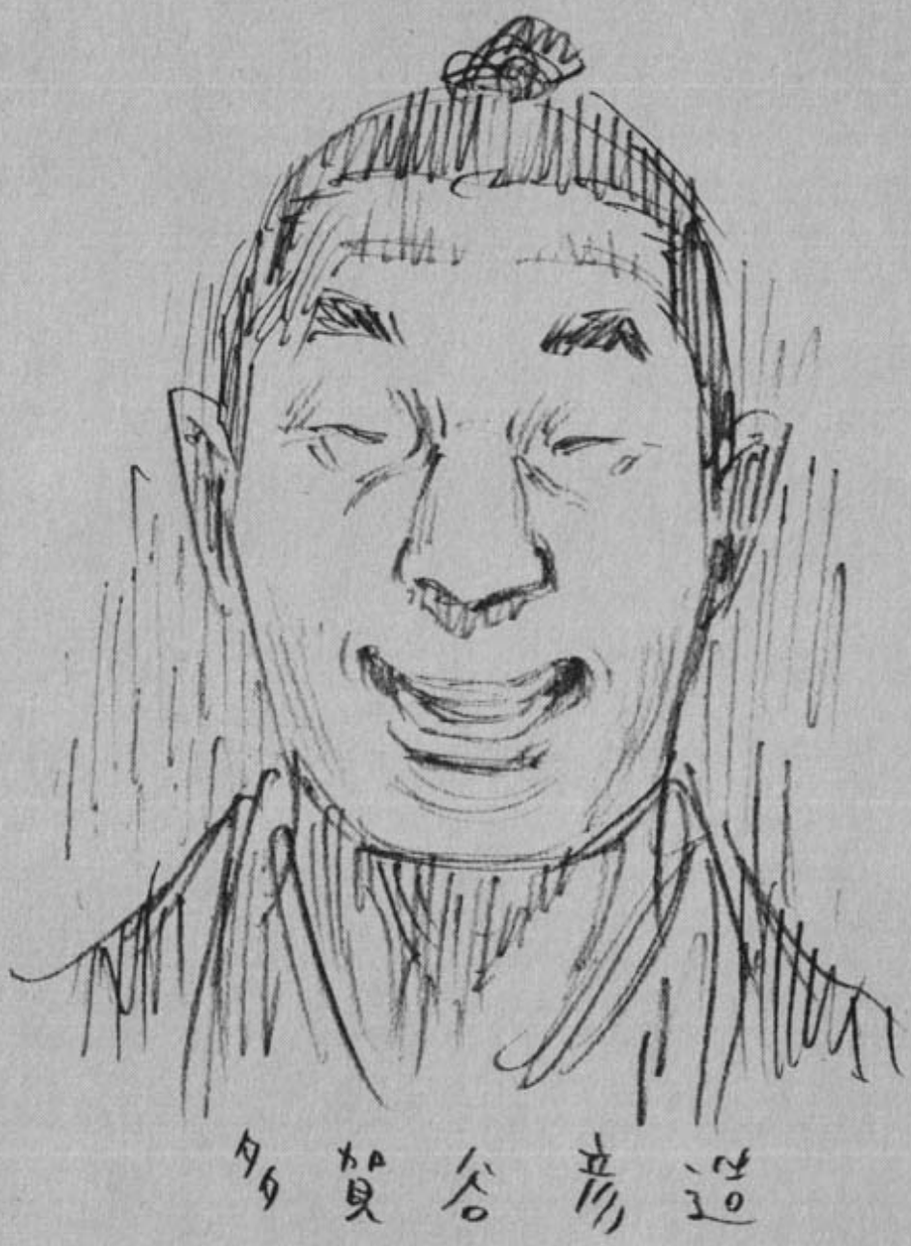
KLANG

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
TAGAYA HIKOZŌ OF THE TEN SWORDSMEN OF THE YOSHIOKA.
COMING ONLY THUS FAR ALONG THE WAY, I HAVE NO REGRETS...

...AS LONG AS I CAN TAKE THIS FIEND WITH ME...
HUF
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
TAGAYA!!
HUF
HUF
HUF

Vagabond



多賀谷彦造

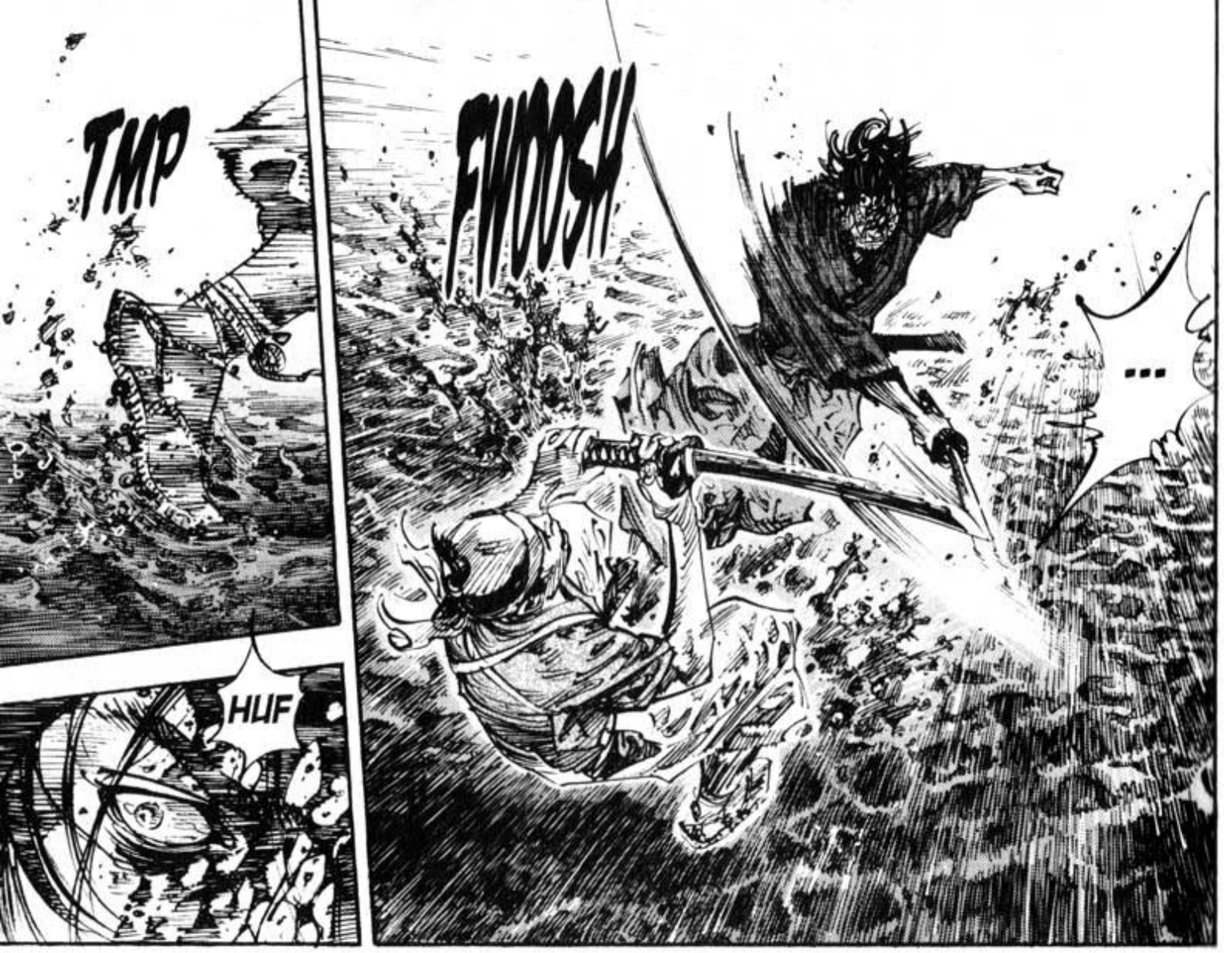
(TAGAYA HIKOZO)

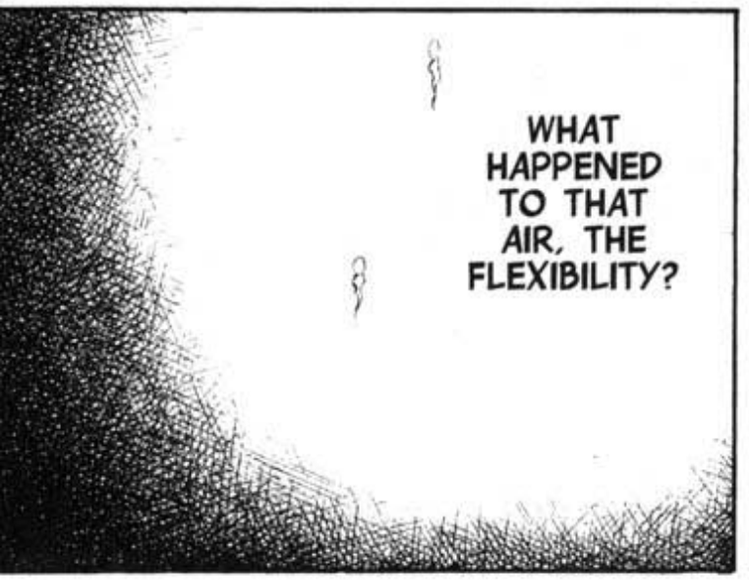
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

YAHHH!!

#238
Changing Times

HUF
HUF
GAHH!
PLICH
KLANG


TMP
FWOOSH
...
HUF


WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT AIR, THE FLEXIBILITY?

AN UNBEARABLE SIGHT, THIS IS...

GRAH!
VWOOSH

KURANDO, IS MUSASHI STILL ALIVE?

YES... AND...

...

I PROMISED YOICHI...
...THAT I WOULD LOOK AFTER OUR MASTER.

YOU CAN COUNT OUR NUMBERS ON A SINGLE HAND.

FORGIVE ME, EVERY-ONE.

.....
SAY, KURANDO ...
AS LONG AS UEDA SURVIVES, THE YOSHIOKA SCHOOL WILL LIVE ON...!!
.....
HE'S JUST A SINGLE MAN... AND WITH THIS MANY OF US, WE STILL COULDN'T MANAGE TO CUT HIM DOWN.
FIVE MEN...
...FACED A SINGLE MAN...
A LONG TIME AGO...
THEY'LL THINK FOUR OR FIVE MEN SHOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO AMBUSH MUSASHI.
WE'LL BE THE LAUGHING-STOCK OF THE CITY.
MOST OF THOSE GOSSIPERS WILL HAVE NEVER EVEN HELD A WOODEN PRACTICE SWORD.

AFTER BEING PRODDED AND INTIMIDATED INTO FEAR...
...WE ENTERED THE FRAY...

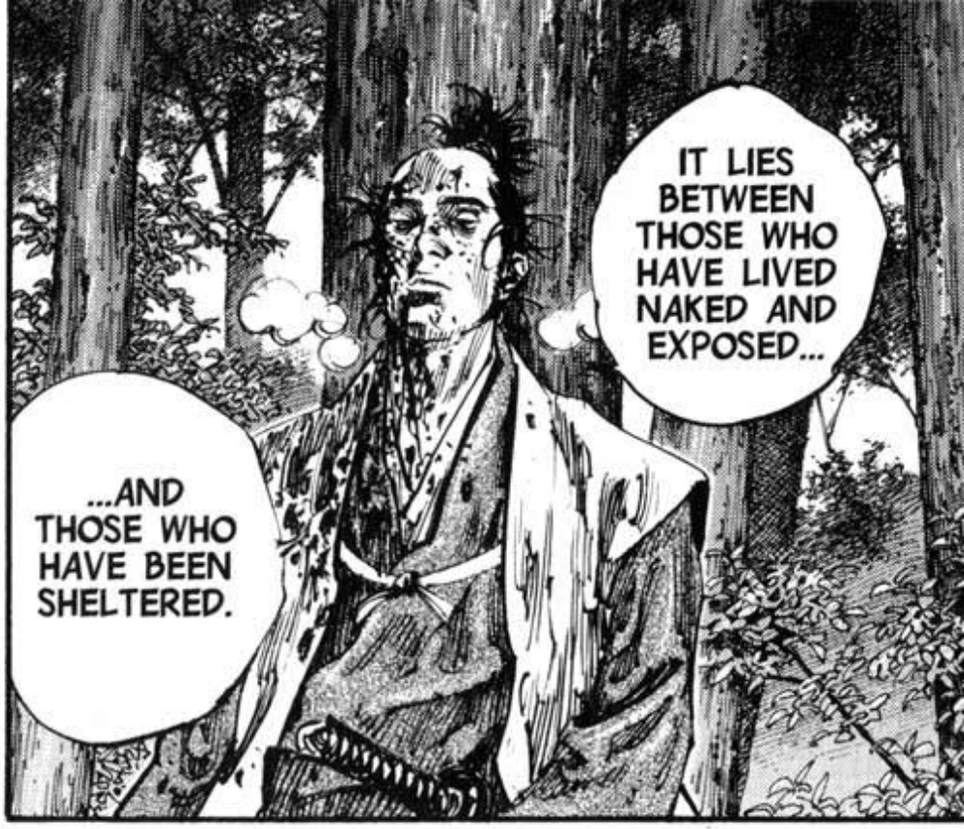
I DIDN'T THINK I WAS UNDER-ESTIMATING THE POWER OF A SINGLE MAN...

ZWAA
ASH
!
SHLP
FWUD
PLISH

HUF
HUF
FWOO
SOSH
PLISH
HUF
HUF
UNGH...

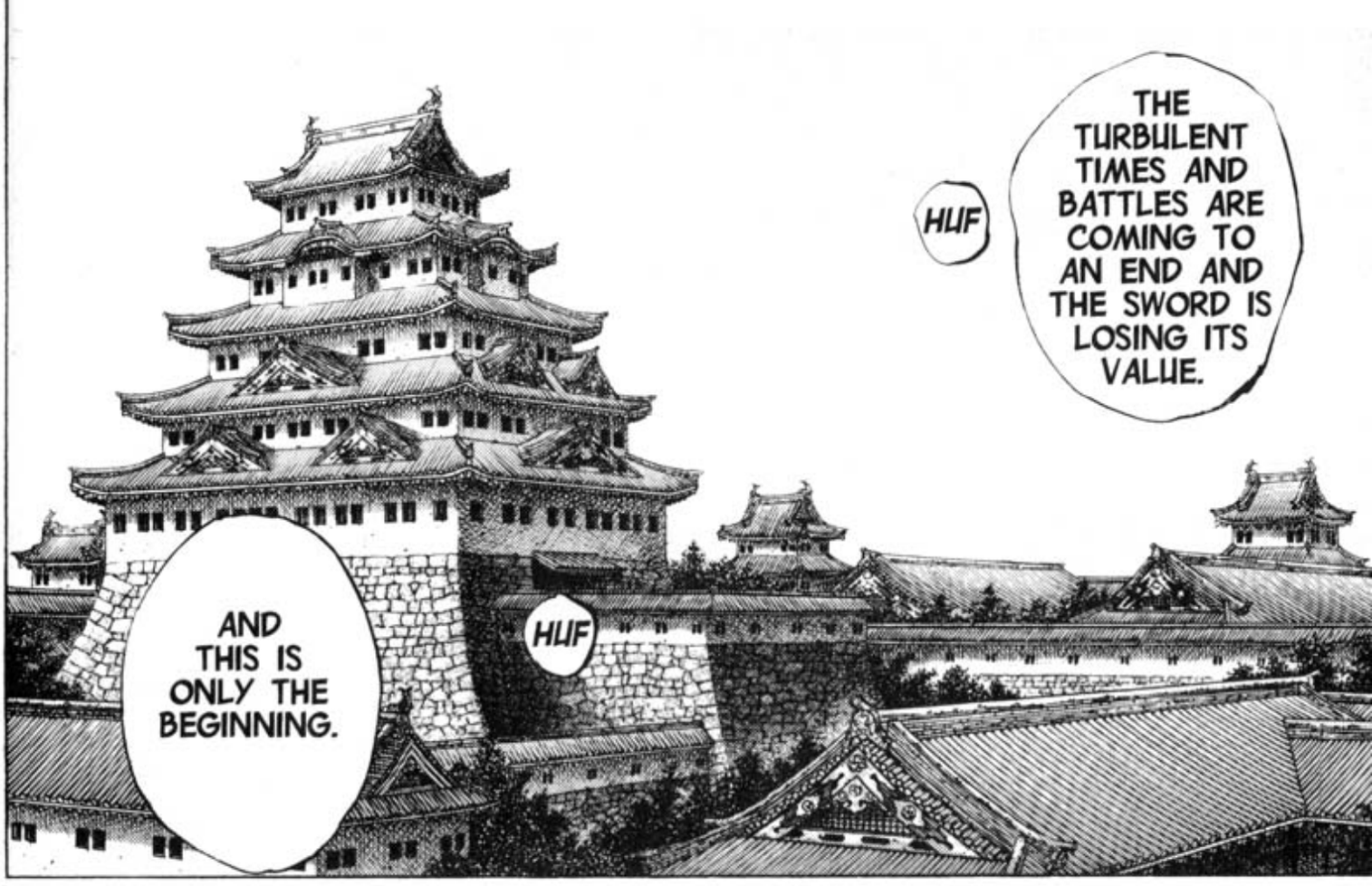
FWOO
OSH
THE DIFFERENCE IS IN ONE'S RESOLVE...
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF


IT LIES BETWEEN THOSE WHO HAVE LIVED NAKED AND EXPOSED...
...AND THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SHELTERED.

BETWEEN THOSE WHO ARE COMMITTED TO CLIMBING THE HIGHEST PEAK...
...AND THOSE WHO ARE CONTENT...

BASH
PLISH
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
CONTENT TO GAZE DOWN UPON THEIR OWN TOWN FROM A SMALL HILL.


HUF
THE TURBULENT TIMES AND BATTLES ARE COMING TO AN END AND THE SWORD IS LOSING ITS VALUE.
HUF
AND THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.

WHY DID THIS MAN, AN ANACHRONISM REALLY, SUDDENLY PRESENT HIMSELF BEFORE US?
HUF

HYUUU

I'VE PUT MUCH THOUGHT INTO THIS...
HUF
.....
HUF

THE REPUTATION AND HONOR OF THE YOSHIOKA WAS FOUNDED UPON THE VALUE OF THE SWORD.
AND IN THESE CHANGING TIMES, THE YOSHIOKA IS BEING SAPPED OF THE VERY SPIRIT UPON WHICH IT WAS FOUNDED.
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

PERHAPS MASTER KEMPŌ SENT THAT MAN TO US...
...TO TEAR US DOWN BEFORE THE YOSHIOKA LOSES EVERY LAST BIT OF ITS TRUE SPIRIT.
TH
WD

HUF
HUF
HAK
HUF
HUFF

WHICH MEANS...
...BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO OVERCOME *THIS.*
I AM ALSO AMONGST THE SHELTERED AND PROTECTED...
FOR THAT, I DESERVE TO DIE.

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
I DIDN'T THINK I WAS UNDER-ESTIMATING THE POWER OF A SINGLE MAN...

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU AS AN OLDER BROTHER.
UEDA...
THIS BODY OF MINE MUST LAST A LITTLE LONGER...
A FEW MOMENTS IS ALL I ASK FOR...
SHF

Vagabond

(HUF HUF HUF)

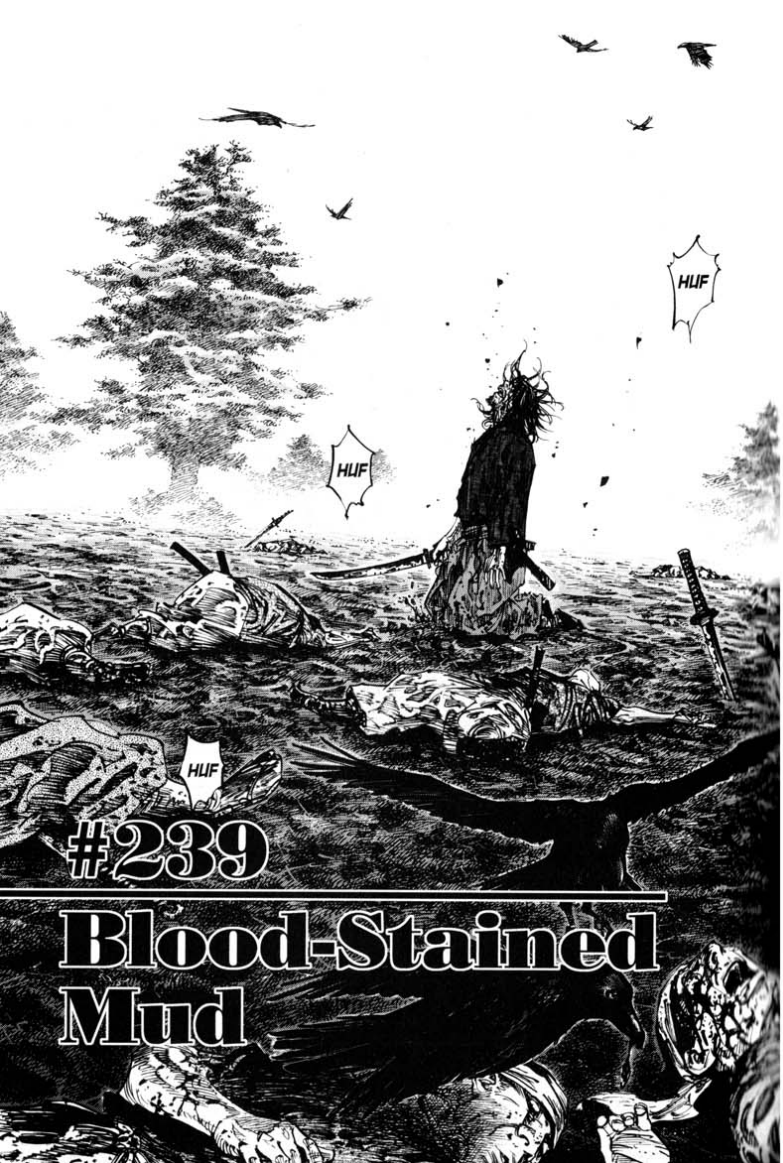
...HOW MANY TRULY COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO THIS FIGHT...?
IN CONFRONTING THIS MAN...

AND IN TURN THAT MAN WOULD LOOK AT THE MAN BY HIS SIDE.
WE LOWERED OUR EYES AND LOOKED AT THE MAN STANDING BY OUR SIDE.
WHEN THE ENEMY CAME BEFORE US, WE ALL REACTED IN THE SAME WAY.

WE COM-PLETELY FAILED.
THAT'S WHAT IT CAME DOWN TO. THE MIGHTY YOSHIOKA...

WHAT DISHONOR ...!

HAK
UNGH
...
HAK
HUF
HUF
HUF
PLISH
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF


HUF
HUF
HUF
#239
Blood-Stained Mud

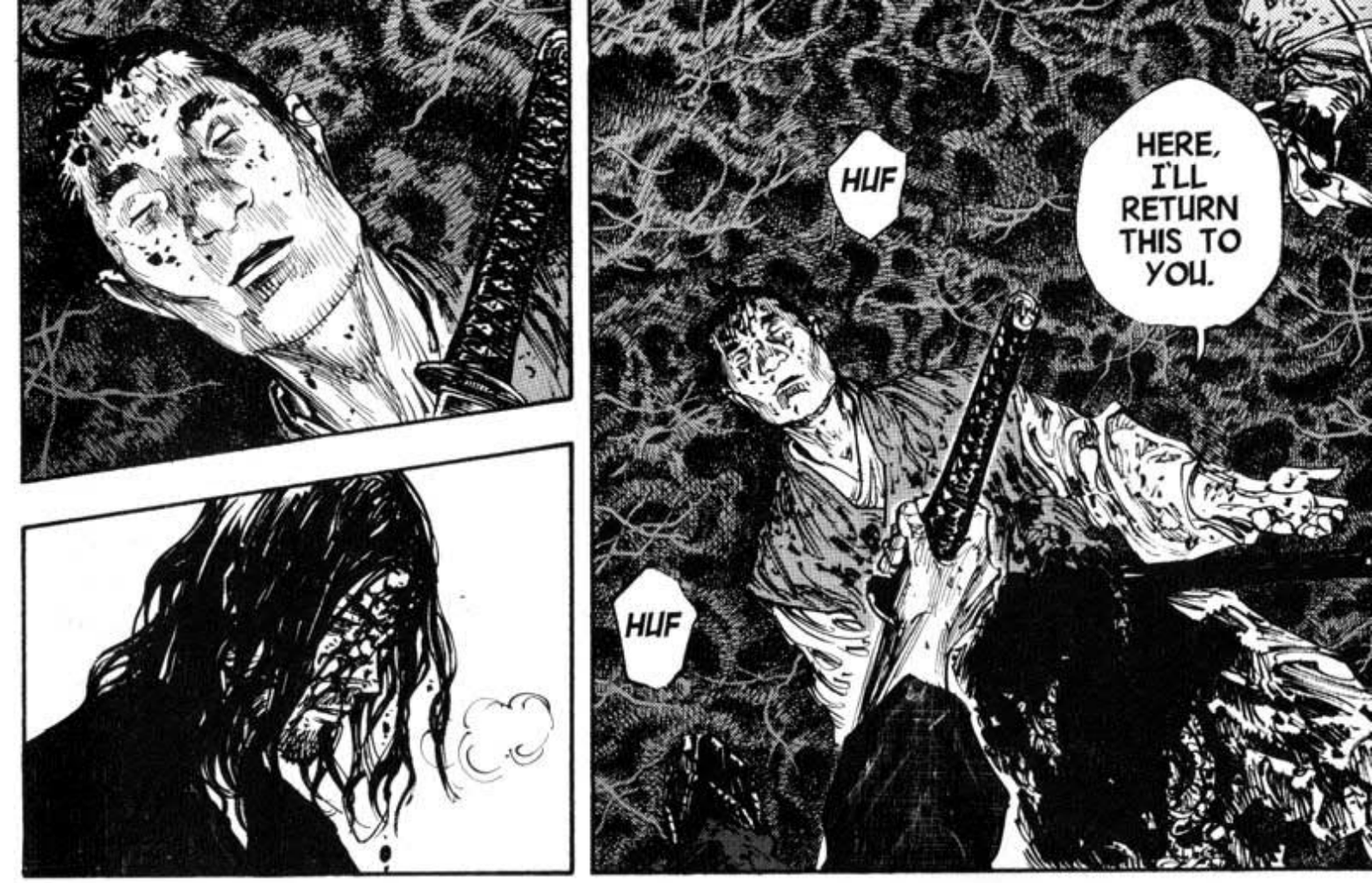
HUF
HUF

HUF
.....
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
BUT I WAS UP AGAINST SEVENTY MEN.
HUF
HUF
MY MOVEMENTS BECAME QUITE AWKWARD NEAR THE END THERE...
AWFUL.
HUF
AS IF I'M A BEGINNER WHO'S NEVER HELD A SWORD BEFORE...
HUF
HUF
HUF
LOOK AT THIS...

I
SURVIVED...

HUF
HUF

HA HA...
HUF


HUF
HERE, I'LL RETURN THIS TO YOU.
HUF

TUGG
TUGG
HUF
HUF
TUGG

.....
HUF
PLIP
PLIP
HUF

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

BLEHH
PLSH
PLSH
HUF
HUF
HUF
HAKK
URGH...
PLSH
PLSH

KŌETSU TOOK SUCH CARE WORKING ON IT.
WHERE IS IT?
MY SWORD...
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

.....
RSTL
HUF
HUF
FLMP
RSTL
HEY...
HUF
HUF
THIS ISN'T IT.

!
...?!
...KILL ME...
PLEASE ...
...FINISH ME OFF...

.....
HUF
HUF
HUF

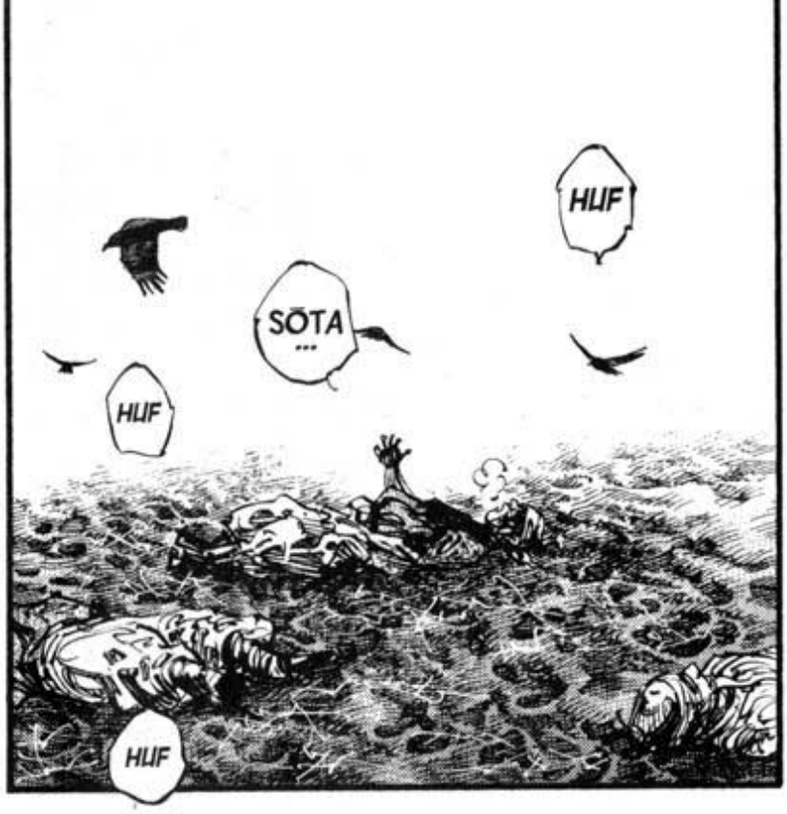
...
HUF
HUF

HUF
CURSE YOU...
HUF

...
HUF
HUF
SŌTA...

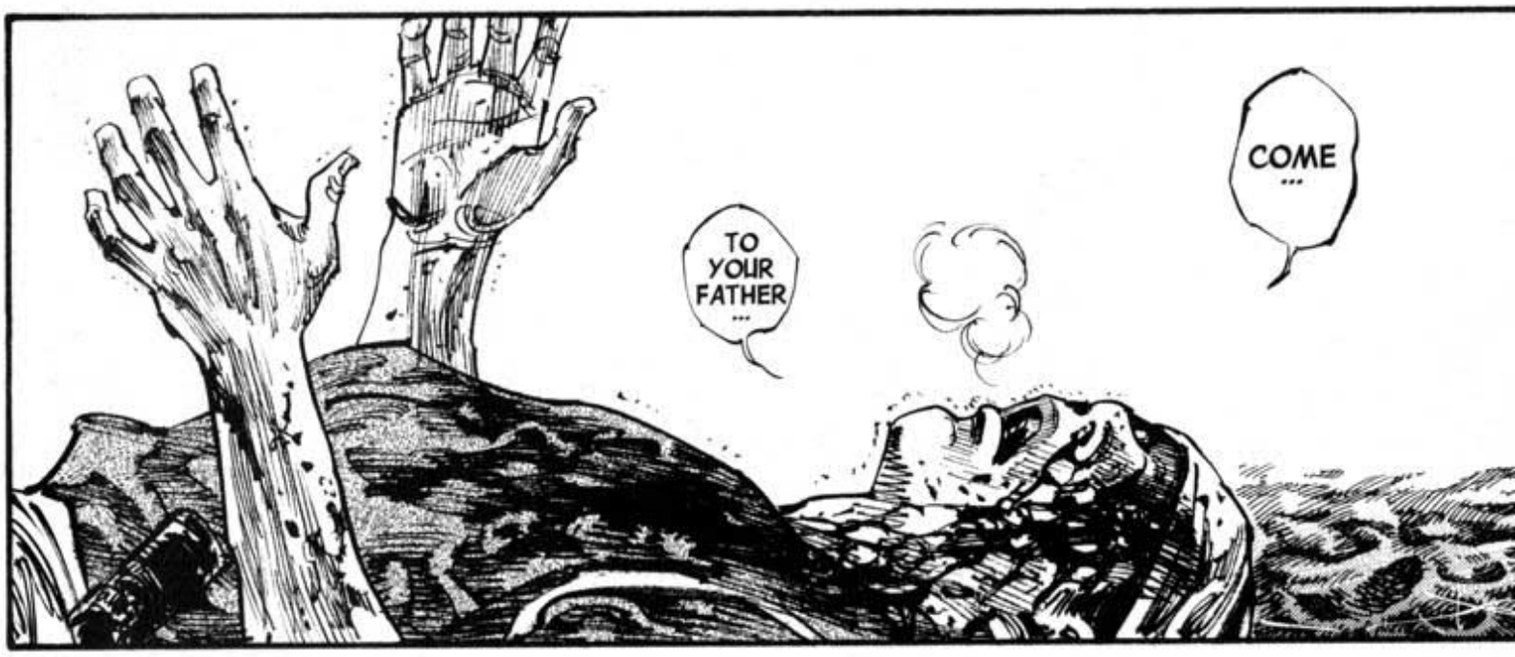
HUF
HUF

HUF
MY SPIRIT WILL REMAIN TO PUT A CURSE ON YOU...
HUF

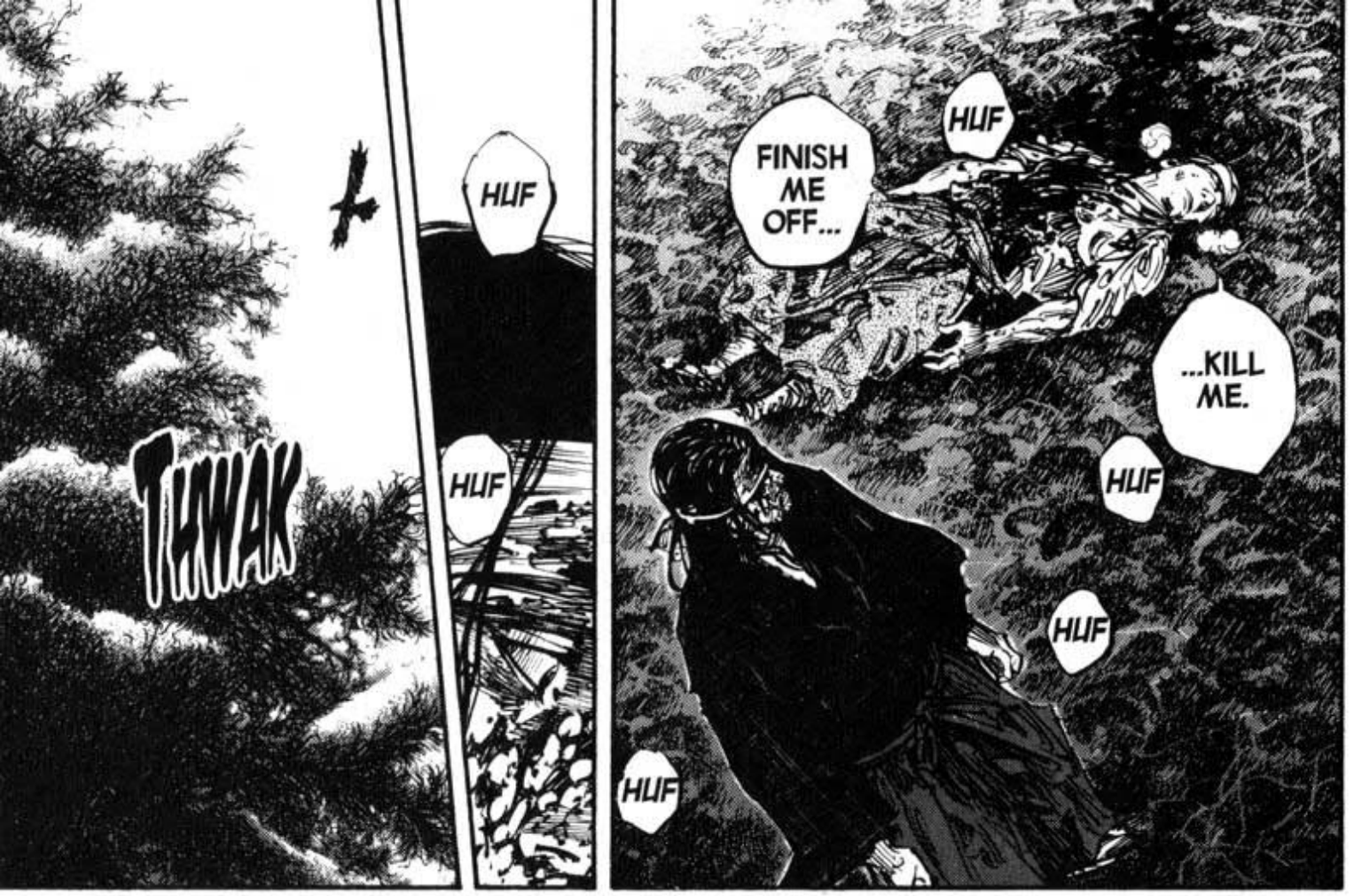

HUF
SŌTA
...
HUF
HUF

SŌTA
...

SŌTA
...


COME
...
TO YOUR FATHER
...

PLEASE
...

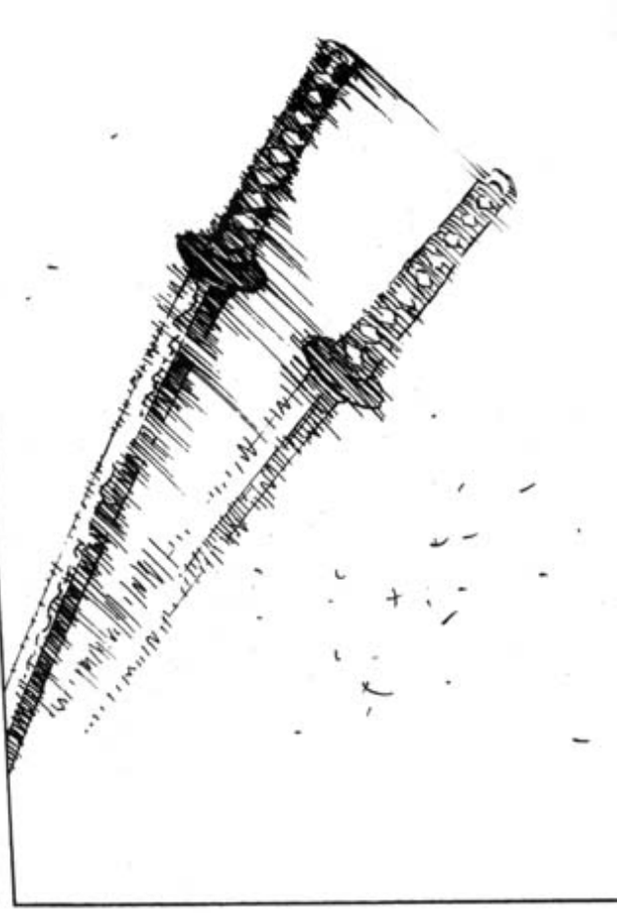

HUF
THWAK
HUF
FINISH ME OFF...
HUF
...KILL ME.
HUF
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF
HUF

KLANG

HUF
HUF

KŌETSU...



GRAH!

FWOOSH
YAHHH!

HUF
HUF

I AM ONLY INTERESTED...

HUF
HUF

...IN SHARPENING FOR THE PURPOSES OF SUCH BEAUTY.
ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES OF SUCH BEAUTY...

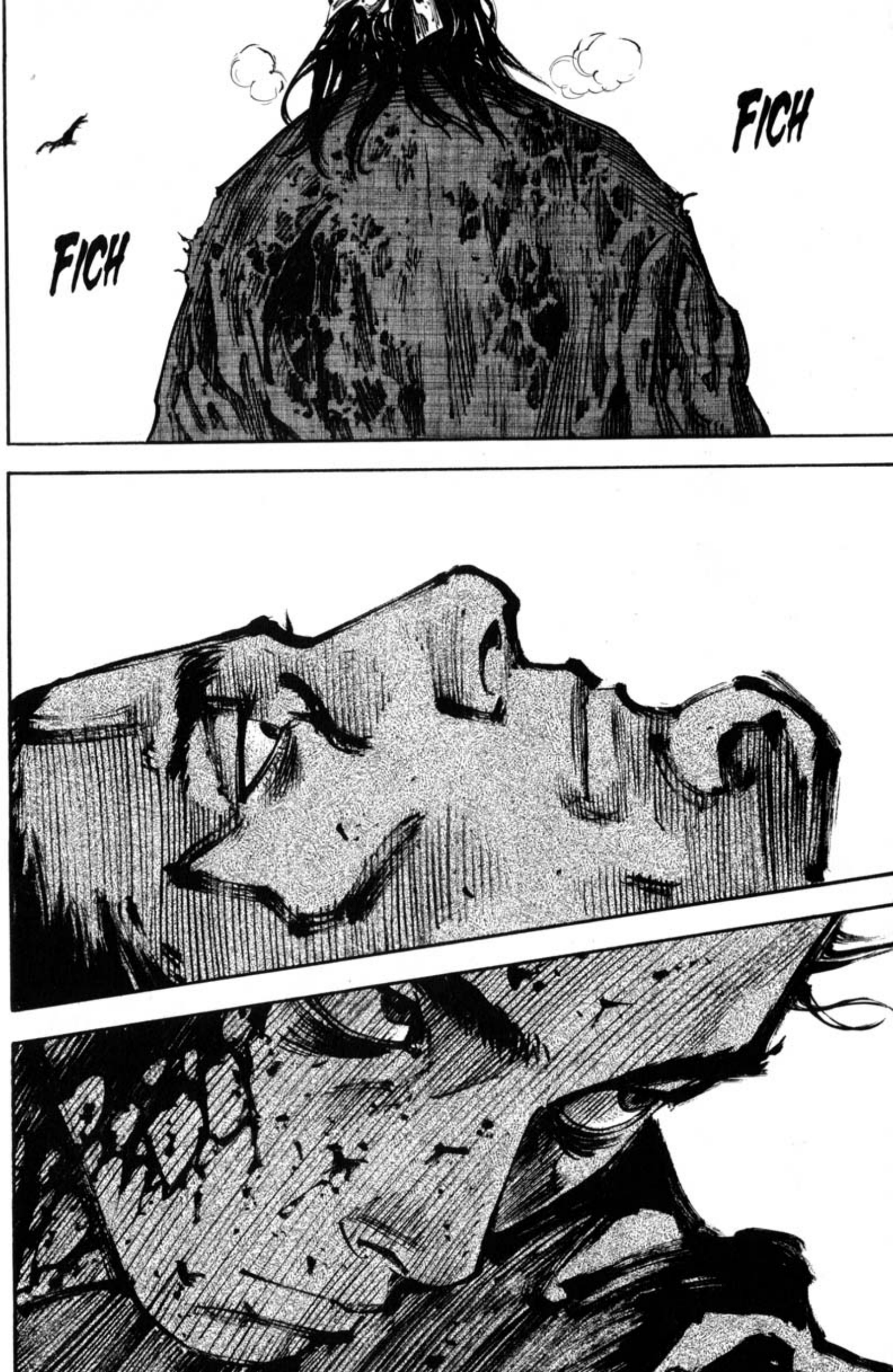
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH BEAU--

BUT I'VE LOOKED LONG ENOUGH.
STILL CAN'T FIND MY SHORT SWORD.

HUF
HUF
THERE IT IS!

I'M GOING TO LEAVE KYOTO.

UNGH...
HUF
HUF
HUF
OW...
ZING
NNGH...
ONLY NOW AM I STARTING TO FEEL THE PAIN...
URRGH.
HUF
PLISH
FICH
HUF
HUF
PAIN...
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
DAMN IT.
GRMBLE GRMBLE...


FICH
FICH

Vagabond

(DRIP)

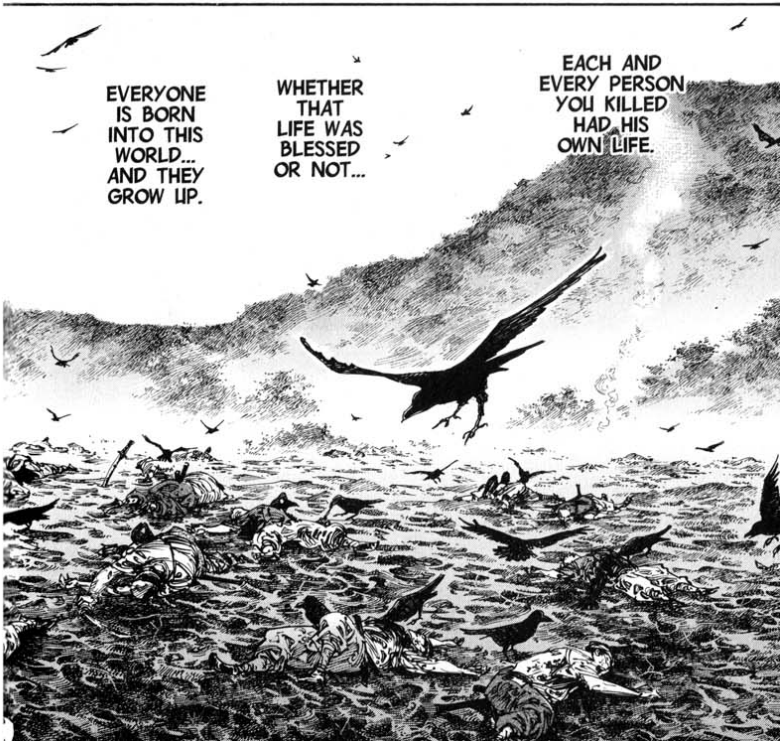
FICH
PAIN...
HUF
HUF
I'M JUST STARTING TO FEEL IT...
...THROUGH-OUT MY ENTIRE BODY...
HUF
FICH
HUF
DAMN IT.
HUF

...THERE IT IS.
HUF
HUF
MY SWORD...

HUF
...YOU KILLED THEM.
HUF

NAMU AMIDA BUTSU...
HUF
HUF
NAMU AMIDA BUTSU...
NAMU AMIDA BUTSU...
HUF

SOME PEOPLE HAVE FAMILIES.
SOME ARE ALONE IN THIS WORLD.
SOME HAVE YOUNG CHILDREN.
SOME ARE ENGAGED.
SOME PEOPLE HAVE HIGH HOPES AND GREAT DREAMS.
SOME HAVE PETS.
OTHERS HAVE NO AMBITION AT ALL...


EVERYONE IS BORN INTO THIS WORLD... AND THEY GROW UP.
WHETHER THAT LIFE WAS BLESSED OR NOT...
EACH AND EVERY PERSON YOU KILLED HAD HIS OWN LIFE.

#240

An Auspicious Encounter

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

НУШ...
HUF
HUF
.....
HYUUU
KAHH

MY SWORD...
HUF
HUF
HUF
THERE IT IS.
HUF

THWSH

"ONE SWORD"...
AND IT LITERALLY COMES DOWN TO THIS...
MY LAST SPARK OF LIFE--

KCHK
...

ARGH
...

...
HUFF...

IT'S ALL PART OF TRAINING.
SOME THINGS YOU CANNOT GAIN FROM MERE PRACTICE ALONE.
MASTER, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO...
YOU MUST STOP THIS SORT OF THING.

YOU WON'T DIE.

THRB
THRB
GO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT US NOW.
WELL, EVERYONE WILL NOW KNOW WHO DID THIS TO YOU.
I'VE HEARD YOU'VE BEEN SULLYING THE NAME OF MY SCHOOL.
OVER 30 YEARS AGO...
ICHIJŌJI ...
NEAR THE SPREADING PINE...

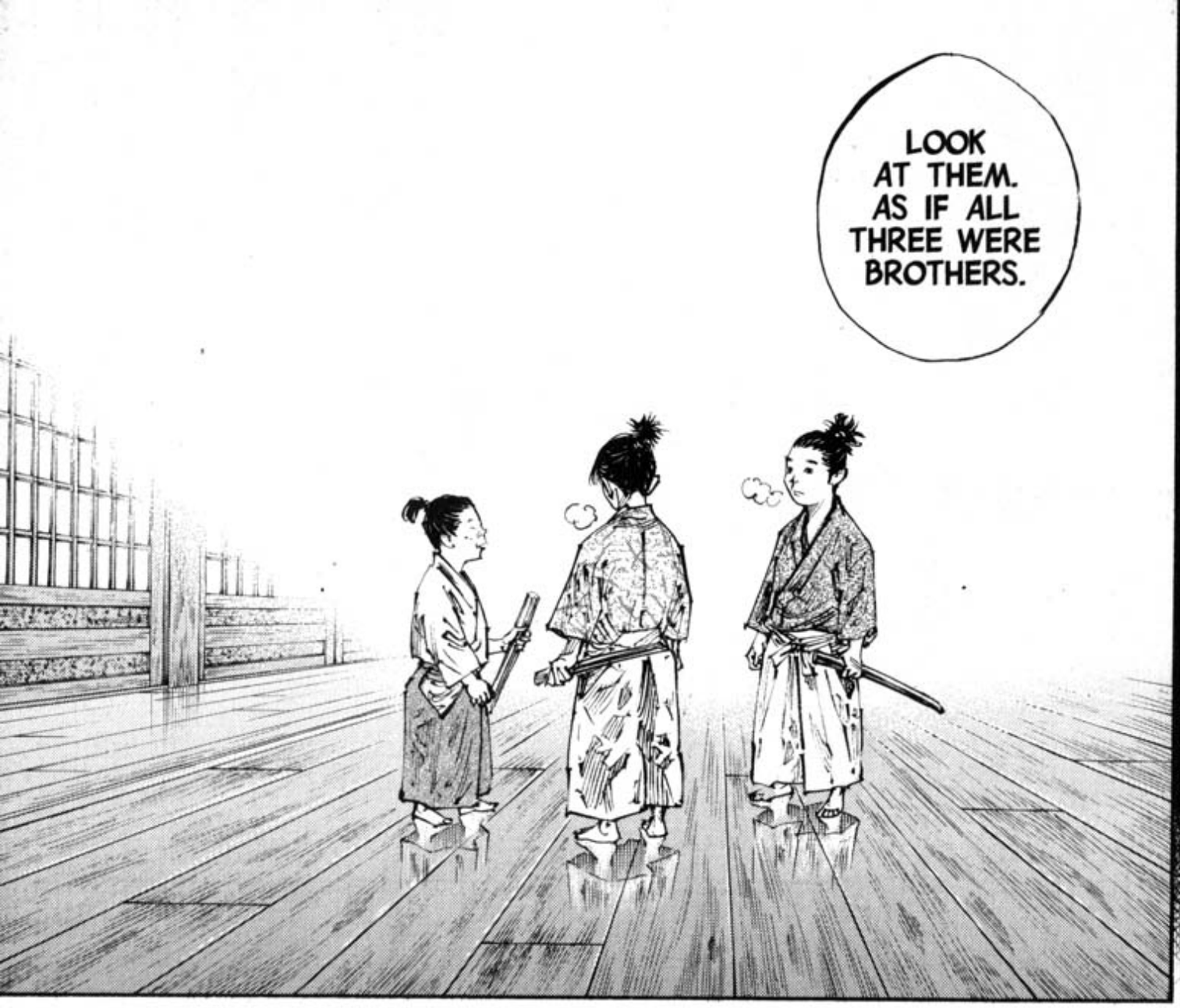
DRGG
DRGG
AN ABAN-DONED CHILD?
HM?

"YOU SHALL HAVE AN AUSPICIOUS ENCOUNTER" ...
COULD THIS BE WHAT THAT FORTUNE-TELLER WAS REFERRING TO?
...
WHUD
SHF SHF
YOU'RE AN ODD ONE.
NOT A SINGLE TEAR.

WHAT COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN RAISING A CHILD!
"CIRCUM-STANCES HAVE PREVENTED ME FROM RAISING THIS CHILD."
SAYS HERE HIS NAME IS RYŌHEI.
HM?
HEY.
ZWP
HOW COULD YOU ABANDON A CHILD YOU NAMED?
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
EH, RYŌHEI?
BWAHH!
HM...
BA...
BA...

UEDA!
YES?
BWAHHH!
GOOD.
CRY YOUR HEART OUT!
YES, CRY ALL YOU WANT.
RAISE THIS CHILD AS YOUR OWN!
WHUDD
YAHH!
TUMP
TUNK
YAH!

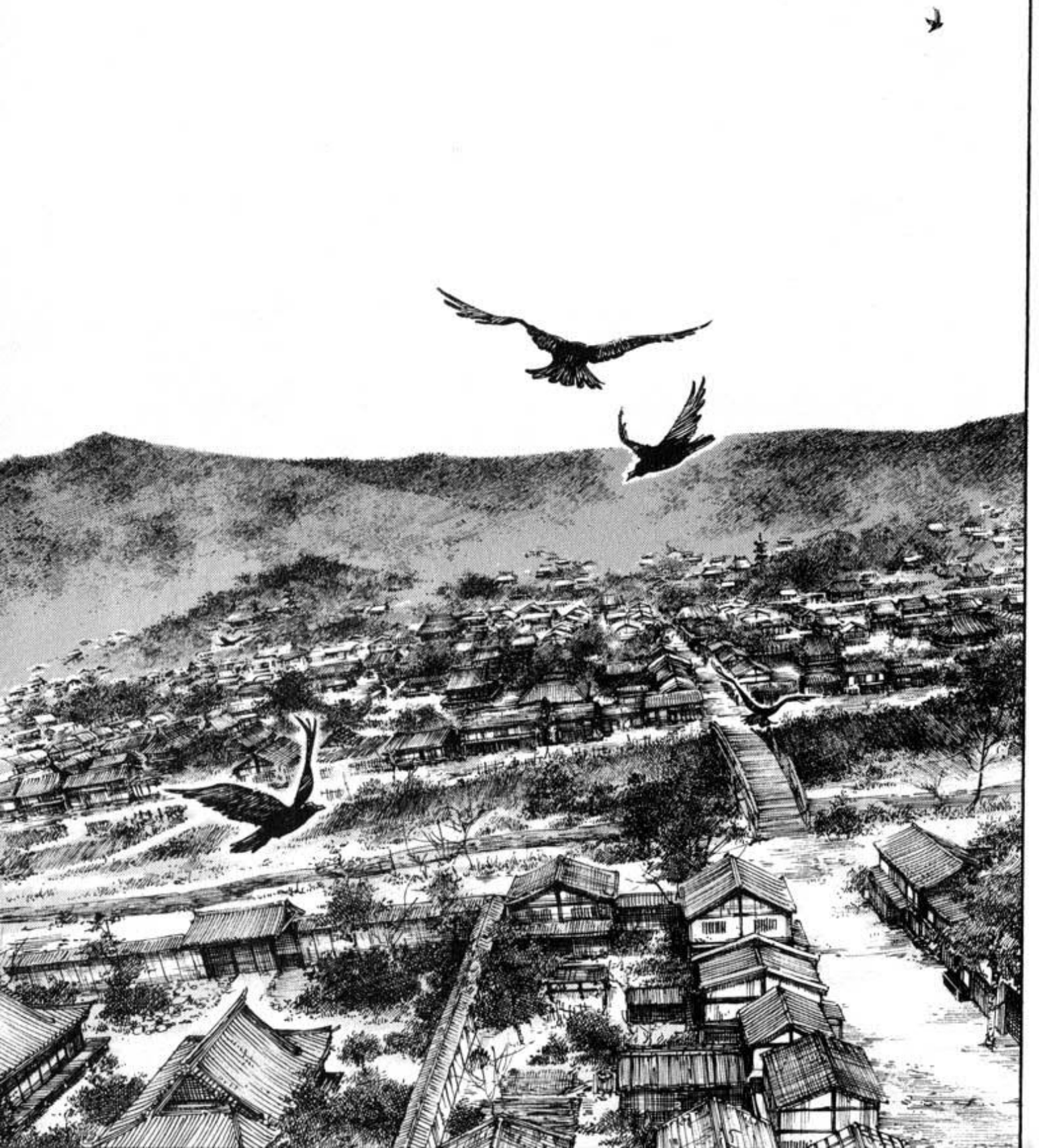
HUF
.....
HUF
HUF
.....
HUF
HUF
HUF
HE HOLDS HIS OWN AGAINST YOUNG MASTER SEIJŪRŌ.
RYŌHEI'S SHOWING GOOD PROGRESS ...
STOP!
THAT'S IT!
AN AUSPICIOUS ENCOUNTER INDEED...
HE HAS INNATE SKILL.


LOOK AT THEM. AS IF ALL THREE WERE BROTHERS.

Vagabond

(HUF HUF HUF)

#241 | One Sword



THEY LOOK LIKE BROTHERS.
ONE DAY...
THAT'S RIGHT, DENSHI-CHIRŌ.
KLAK
KLAK
MOVE FOR-WARD.
.....

RYŌHEI!
STOP!
SWAK
!!
.....
DENSHICHIRŌ LEFT HIMSELF OPEN AND YOU KNEW IT.
WHY DIDN'T YOU STRIKE?!
BECAUSE HE'S MY SON?!
THIS IS THE THIRD TIME I'VE HAD TO WARN YOU, RYŌHEI.

IT WILL WARP HIS SENSE OF WINNING AND LOSING.
HOLDING BACK LIKE THAT CAN ONLY BE DETRIMENTAL FOR DENSHICHIRŌ.
NOW STAND UP.
...
WOULD ANY OPPONENT SHOW DEFERENCE IN A REAL SWORD-FIGHT?
THERE ARE NO SECOND CHANCES IN A REAL MATCH.
UGG
HERE!
NOW!
YOU MUST REMAIN IN THE PRESENT AND THROW EVERY-THING YOU HAVE AT YOUR OPPONENT!

THAT'S THE MEANING OF *HITOTSU NO TACHI*-- ONE SWORD! A SINGLE STROKE!
THUNK
!
YOU MUST LEAVE, RYŌHEI.
ONE WHO WARPS OUR SENSE OF COMBAT CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN.

...!
BZZZ
ZWRR
ZWRR

RYŌHEI...

I HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
I WANT A LIFE.
AND THE ONLY WAY I KNOW IS...

...THAT OF THE SWORD.

...!
SHWP
...

FORGIVE ME, SIR.
PLEASE LET ME FIGHT YOU.
I WILL GIVE EVERYTHING I HAVE. KILLING ME WILL TAKE NO EFFORT AT ALL...
BUT AT LEAST...
HM?
AT LEAST I CAN TRY TO CORRECT THE DAMAGE I'VE DONE. I CAN SHOW DENSHICHIRŌ WHAT IT MEANS TO FIGHT HONORABLY.
I BESEECH YOU, SIR.

!
FWAP
ZWP
FWAK
HERE!
NOW!
FWAK
ONE SWORD!

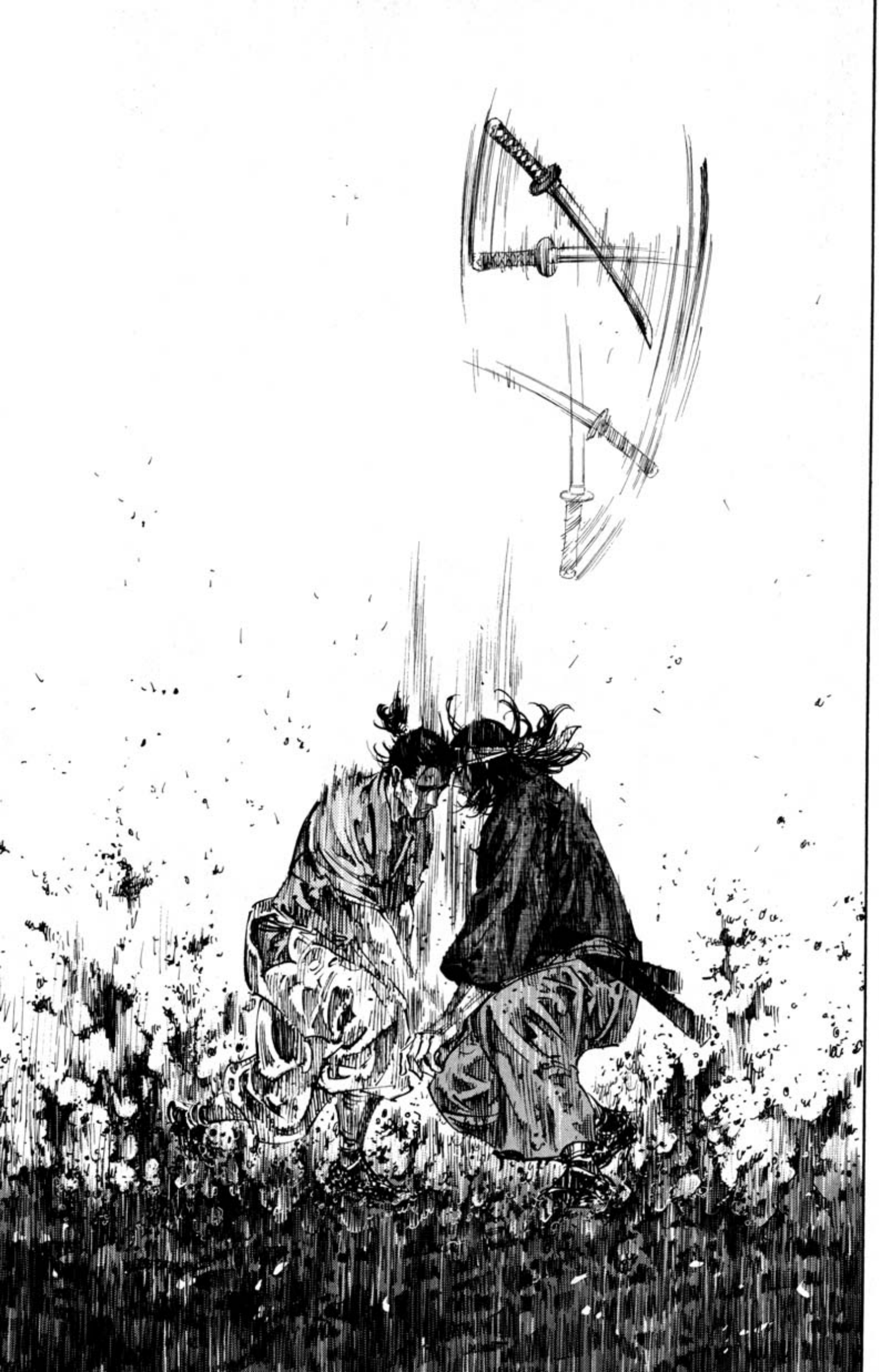
THERE ARE NO SECOND CHANCES !!
FICH
NOW GO TAKE A BATH AND GET WARMED UP.

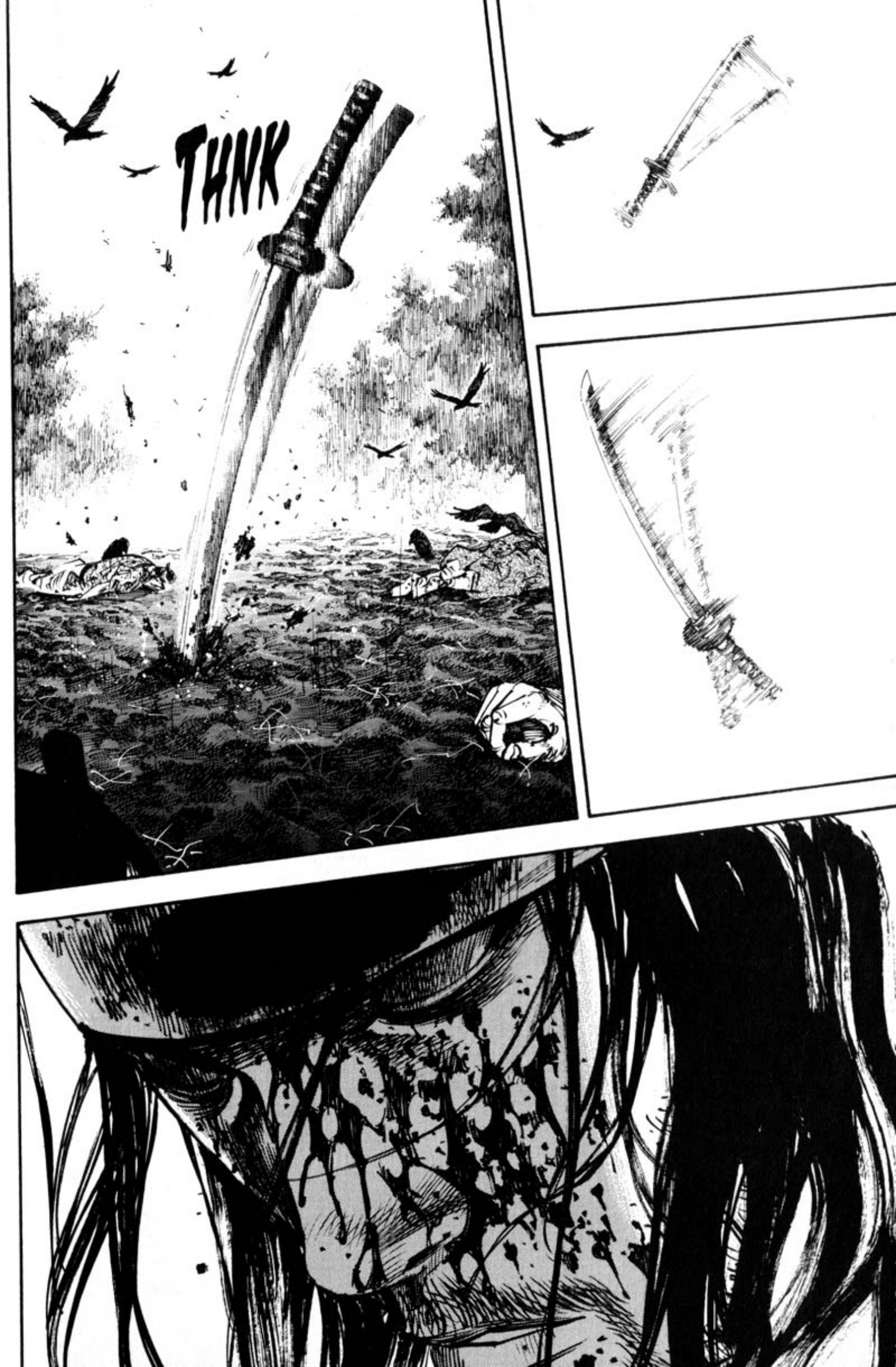
THWAK
A SINGLE STROKE...
ONE SWORD ...

NO...

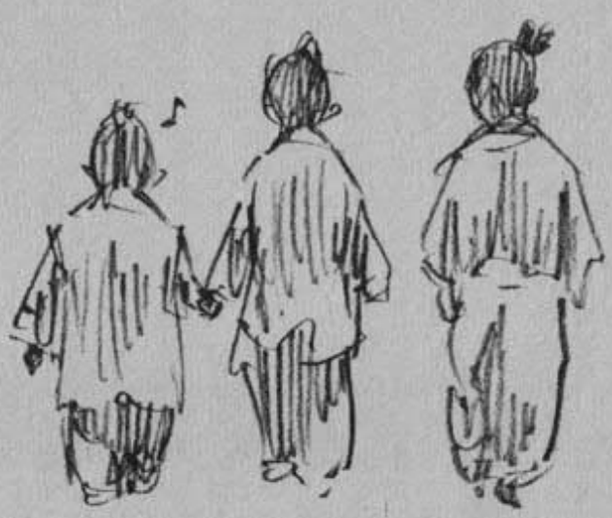
...SECOND CHANCES...

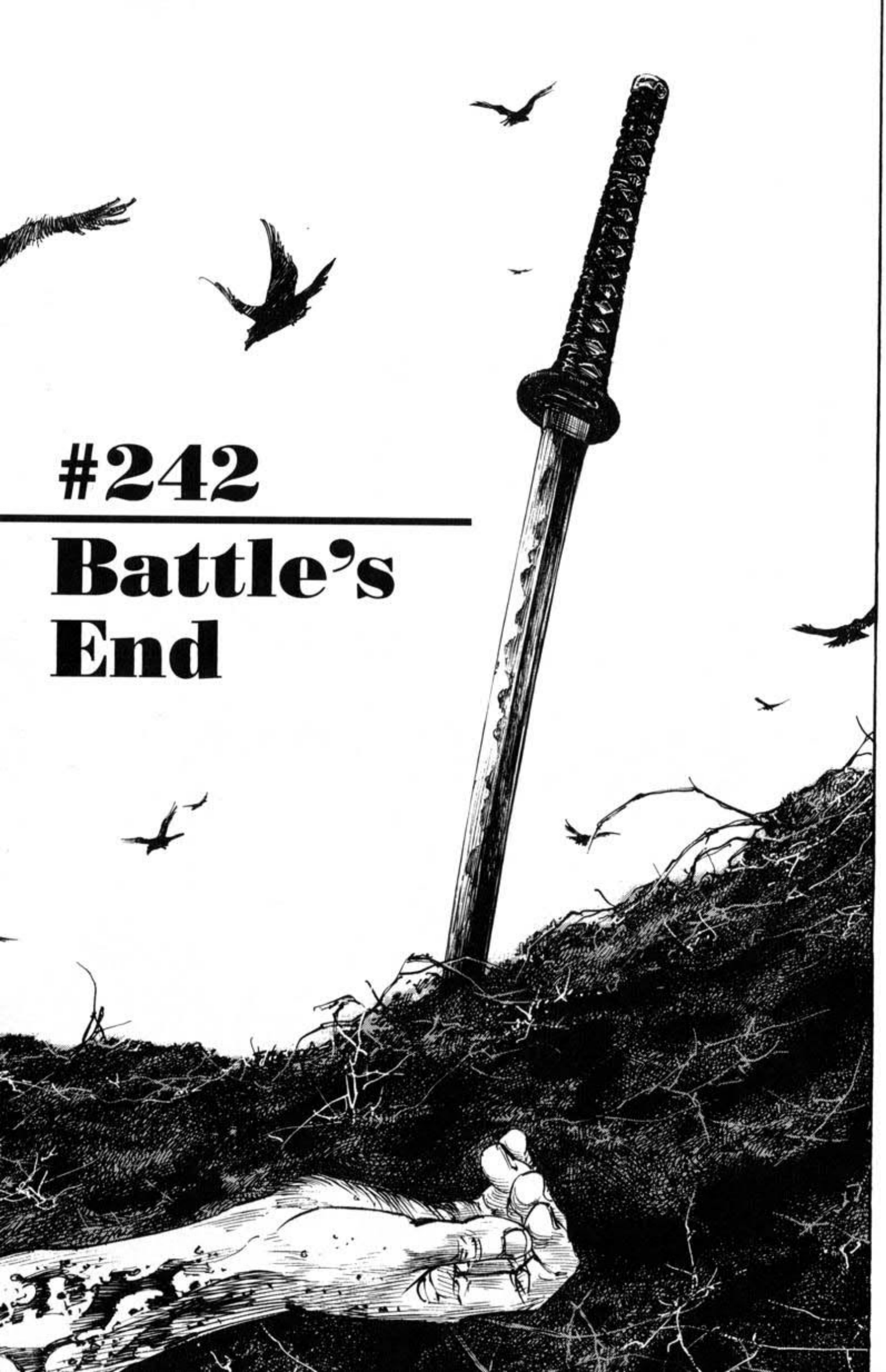
うおー!
UWOH!
KLNK




THNK

Vagabond





#242

Battle's End

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF
HUF

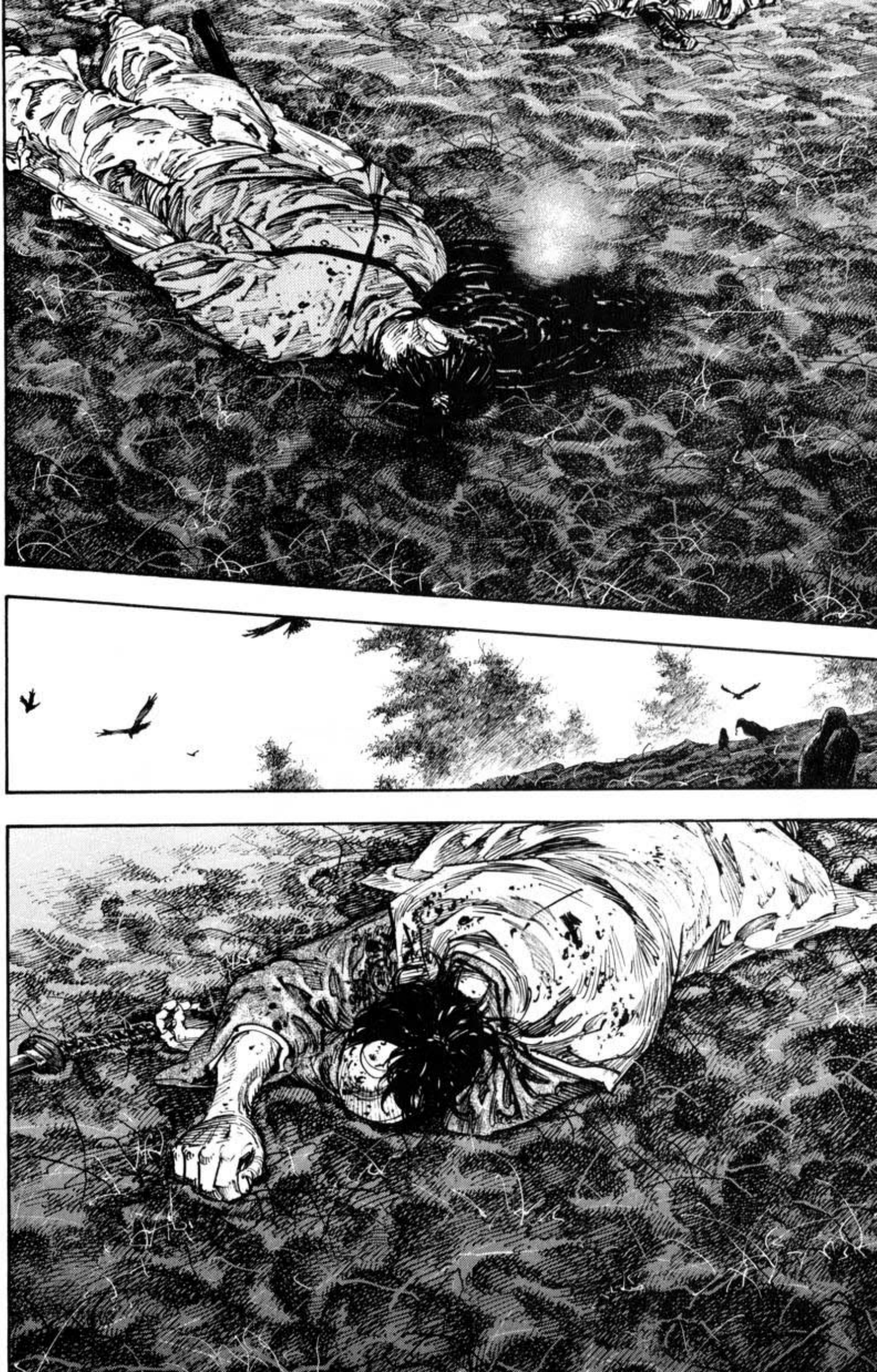
HOW WERE WE?
TELL ME, MUSASHI.
HUF
HUF
...?!
...HOW DID WE APPEAR?
FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE ...

MUSASHI ...
WE BAND TOGETHER AND WE FORGET OUR TRUE INTENTIONS...
WE LOSE OURSELVES IN A GROUP.
BUT PEOPLE ARE WEAK.
THEN THE YOSHIOKA WOULD NOT HAVE FALTERED.

..I BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE REACHED IT.

WE COULD HAVE BEEN RIVALS ON GOOD TERMS.
IF ONLY THINGS HAD BEEN DIFFERENT ...
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

WHATEVER IT WAS THAT WE WERE ALL STRIVING TO ACHIEVE...

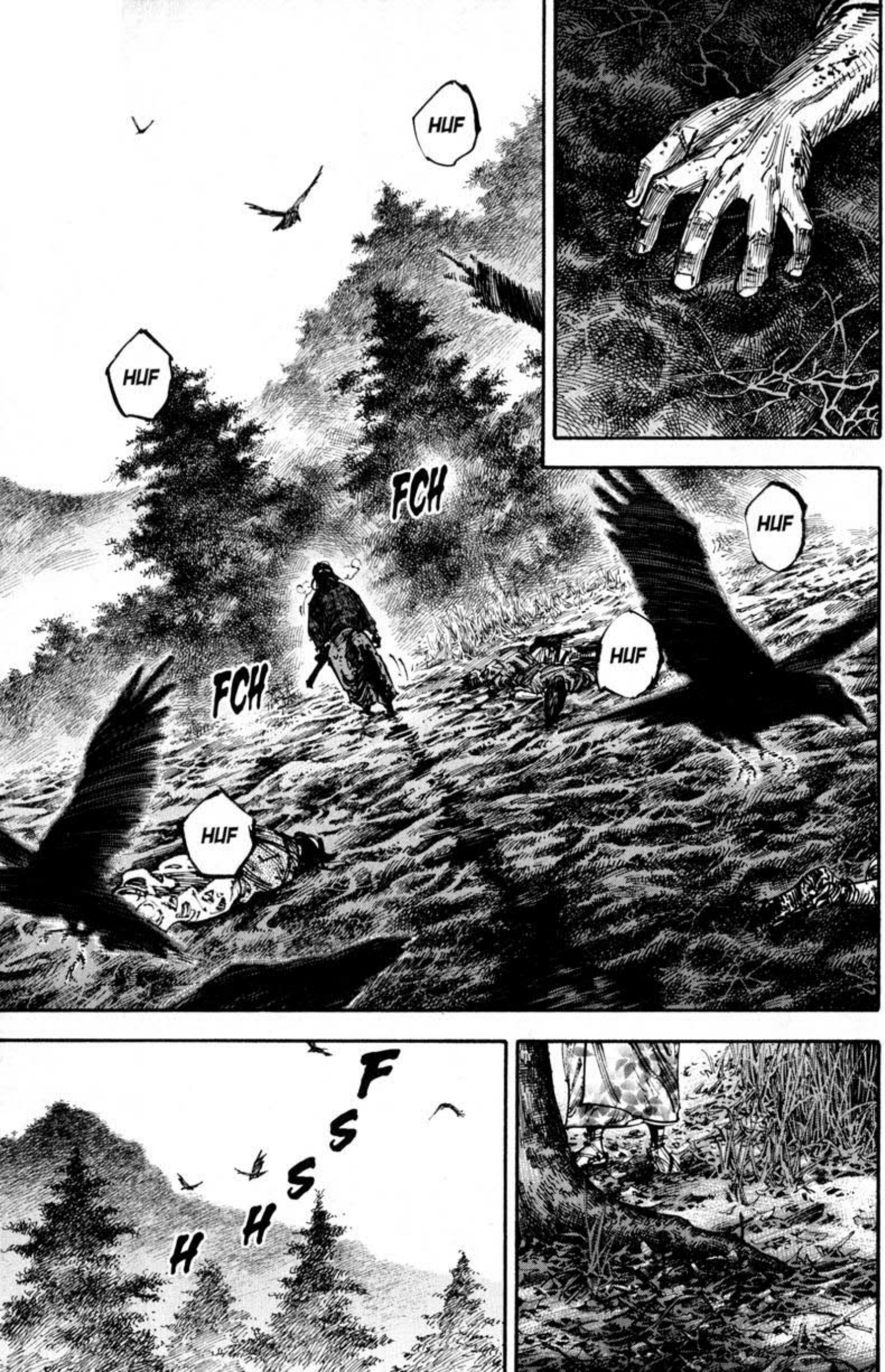


HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
UNGH...
ARRGH...
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
KCHK
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF
WHAT
IS
THIS...?
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
FCH
HUF
HUF
HUF
NGHH...
HUF
HUF

MUST LEAVE.
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
FCH
FCH
HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
GRB

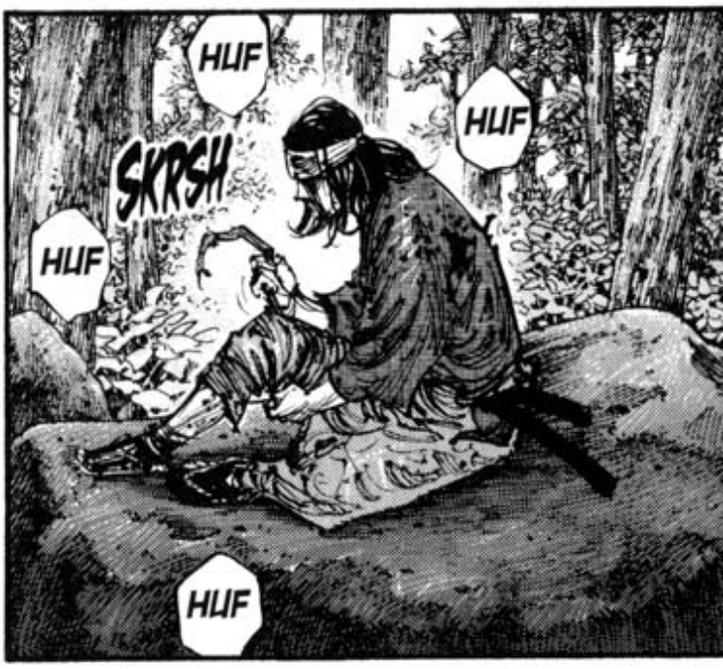
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF


HUF
HUF
FCH
HUF
HUF
FCH
HUF
F
S
S
H
H

HUF
HUF
HUF
FSSSSH

YOU HAD TO COME BACK.
FSSSH

HUF
HUF
HUF


HUF
HUF
SKRSH
HUF
HUF

FSSSH

TAKEZŌ...
FSSSH
H
H
H

.....

IT'S YOU...!
.....

KRIK
ICHIJŌJI ...?
NGHH!
YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED ?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WATCH YOUR FOOTING. IT'S SLIPPERY.
...?
I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU FROM ICHIJŌJI.

...
HUF
HUF

...I'M A VAGA-BOND.

FROM THIS DAY ON...

YOU SHOULD HAVE...
F
S
S
H
H

YOU STAY HERE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE LET ME GO WITH YOU.
FSSHH

ZWSH

FSSHH

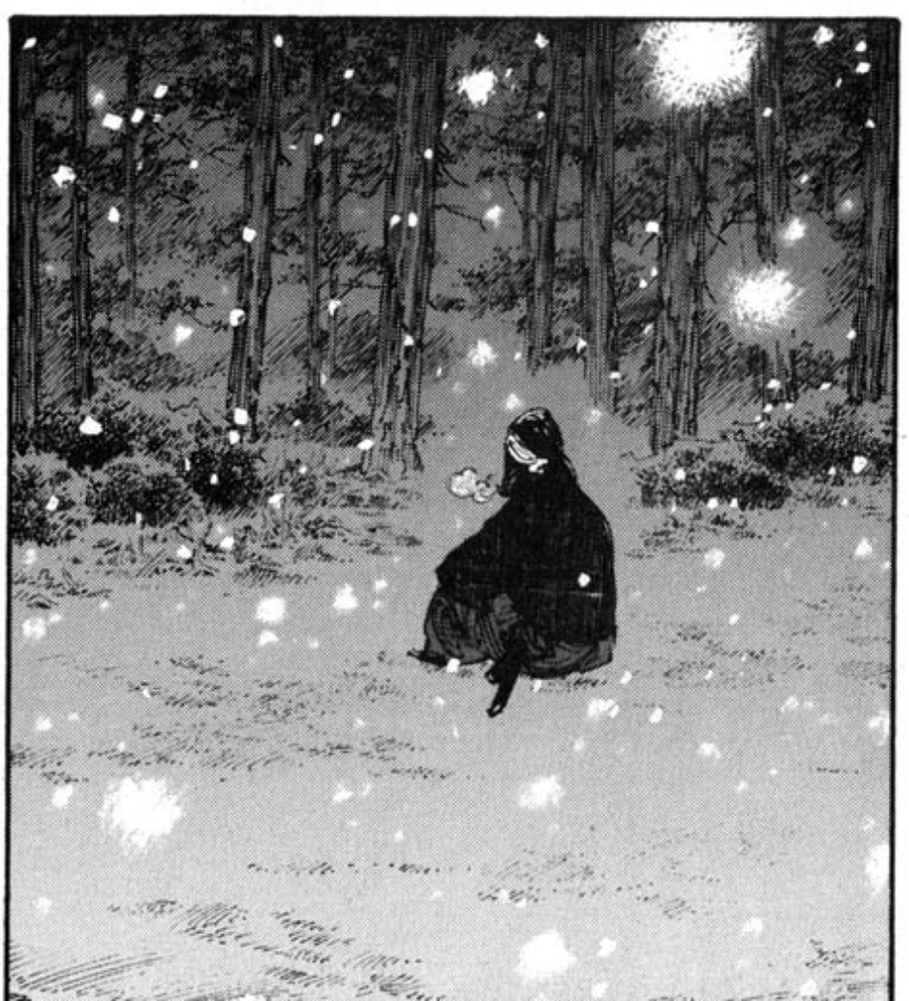
KTNK

THERE'S ONE THING...
...I NEED TO TELL YOU.

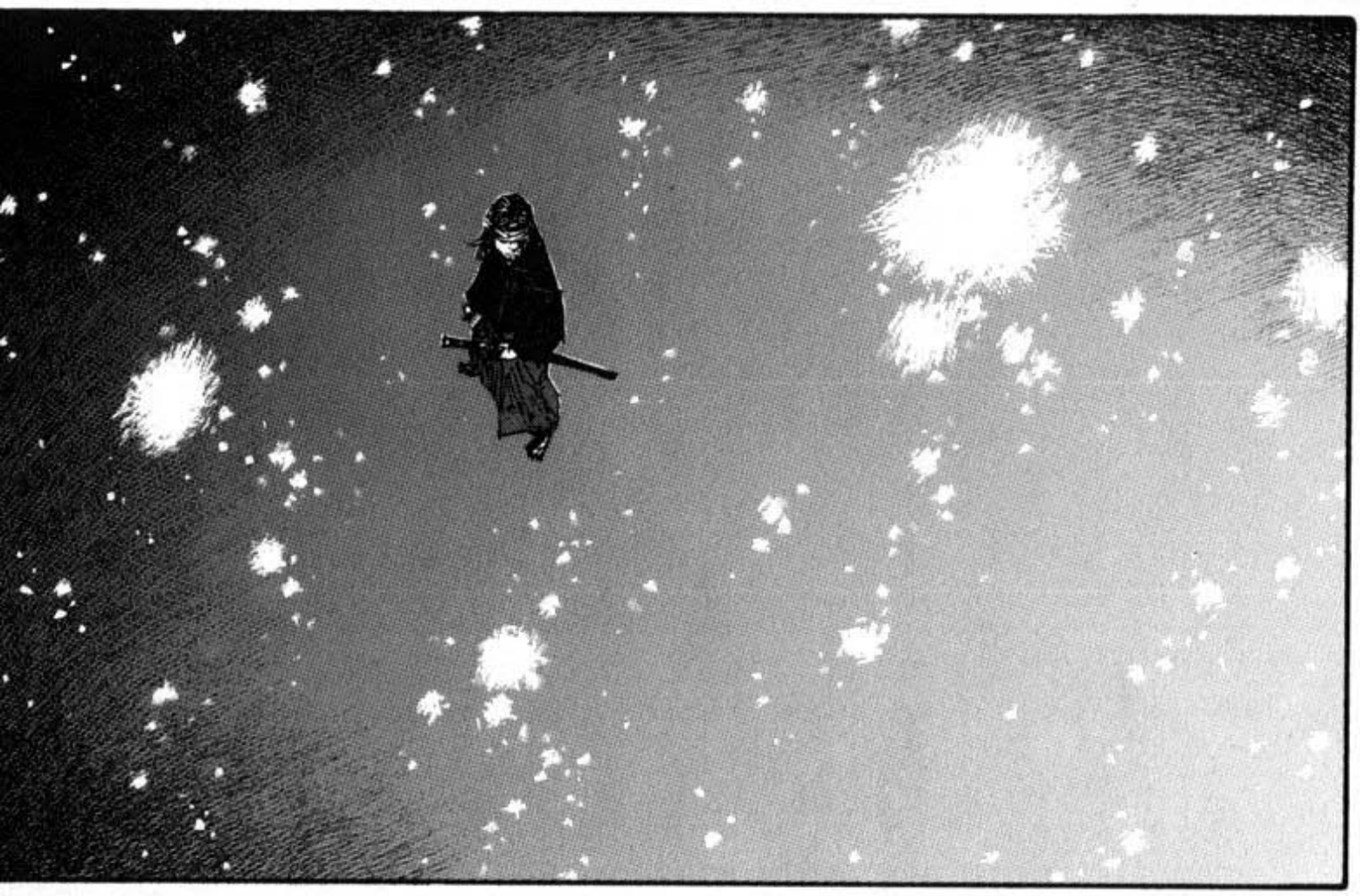
I WAS YOSHIOKA SEIJŪRŌ'S WOMAN.

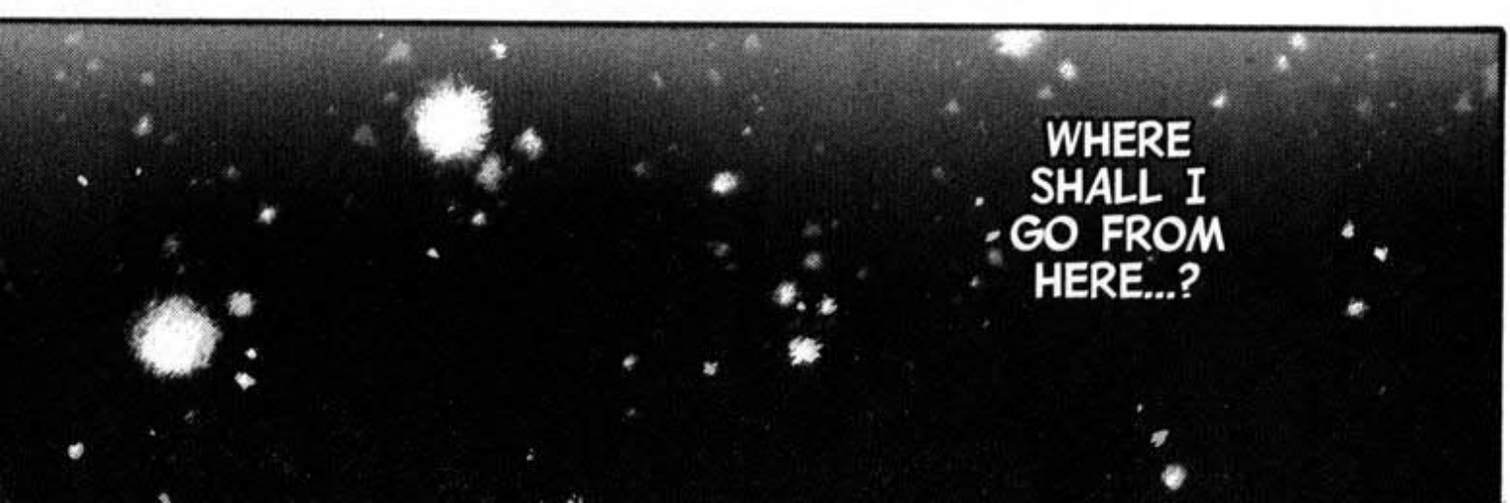
TMP
AH!
FSSHH
AHH!!

F
S
S
H
H
H



AHHH!




WHERE SHALL I GO FROM HERE...?

KOJIRŌ...

Vagabond

Glossary and Extraneous Background Information

A Brief Historical Overview
The *Sengoku* (warring states) period (1482-1558) in Japan was a time of chaos and conflict. Central authorities, in the form of the imperial court and the shogunate, had grown increasingly weak and the land was effectively ruled autonomously by numerous *daimyo* (domainal lords). Looking to expand their spheres of control, the *daimyo* were constantly at war with each other. One *daimyo* in particular, Oda Nobunaga, set out on a mission to unify Japan by means of conquest. Incredibly successful, by the time of his assassination in 1582, he managed to control approximately one-third of Japan. One of Nobunaga's chief generals, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, became Nobunaga's successor to carry on the quest for unification. Through a process of conquest and conciliation, Hideyoshi succeeded in creating a federation amongst the *daimyo,* and by 1590, order was restored to Japan under Hideyoshi's rule. Hideyoshi's death in 1598, however, presented the question of succession. Most of the *daimyo* from the domains in the west remained loyal to the Toyotomi Clan and its 5-year-old heir, Toyotomi Hideyori. Tokugawa Ieyasu, however, leading the major *daimyo* from central and eastern Japan, challenged the Toyotomi clan's leadership. The two sides clashed at the Battle of Sekigahara (1600) in Mino (located in present day Gifu Prefecture) where the Tokugawa claimed an overwhelming victory. From that point on, the Tokugawa clan would effectively rule Japan for the next 250 years. The political stability that resulted put mass numbers of samurai out of work. Masterless samurai, known as *ronin*, were forced to wander the land to seek out employment. This, the beginning of the Edo Period (1600-1868), set the stage for many of the period dramas and *chambara* sword-fighting films that have popularized the image of the samurai to a Western audience.

Hon'ami Koetsu (1558-1637)
Famed artist and calligrapher who co-founded an influential arts movement called the Rinpa School. Koetsu was involved in numerous fields including tea ceremony, pottery, and calligraphy. In addition, Koetsu succeeded the line of his family's ancestral business of sword polishing and appraisals.

Hozoin Spear Technique
Created by the Buddhist monk Kakuzenbo Hoin In'ei (1521-1607) of Hozoin Temple, which was a sub-temple of Kofukuji Temple in Nara. This spear technique is typified by quick dexterous movements rather than the use of brute force.

Ito Ittosai (Dates unknown)
Founder of the Itto-ryu school of sword fighting. Before establishing his own style, Ittosai is said to have studied a variant of the Chujo-ryu style of sword fighting under Kanemaki Jisai's instruction.

Sasaki Kojiro (dates unknown)
The legendary archrival of Miyamoto Musashi, Kojiro is believed to have studied the Chujo-ryu style of swordsmanship under the instruction of either Toda Seigen or Kanemaki Jisai. Kojiro was renowned for his *Tsubame-gaeshi*, or "swallow-cut" technique which was inspired by the movement of a swallow in flight.

Shinmen Takezo
Miyamoto Musashi's boyhood name.

Takuan Soho (1573-1645)
A monk of the Rinzai sect of Zen Buddhism, by the time Takuan was 37, he was appointed abbot of the leading temple of the Rinzai sect, Daitokuji. Takuan was an important figure whose acute and brutally honest advice was sought by influential and powerful figures such as Emperor Go Mizuno and the shogun Tokugawa Iemitsu. His correspondence to Yagyu Munenori discussing Zen and swordsmanship entitled *THE UNFETTERED MIND* has become an influential treatise in both the areas of philosophy and martial arts. The pickled daikon radish, *takuan*, also bears his name.

The Yagyu Clan
Yagyu Muneyoshi Sekishusai (1527-1606) was the founder of the famed Yagyu-Shinkage school of sword fighting. His son Yagyu Munenori (1571-1646) was one of Tokugawa's key generals at the Battle of Sekigahara. Munenori was appointed the official fencing instructor of the Tokugawa Clan, and in 1632 the Yagyu were appointed the *ometsuke*—responsible for the surveillance of the *daimyo*. Although the Yagyu clan has been depicted in Kazuo Koike's *LONE WOLF AND CUB* as the plotters of the downfall of Itto Ogami, the general Japanese popular culture take on the Yagyu Clan is more positive. More specifically, Munenori's son, Yagyu Jubei (1607-1650), is viewed as a wandering hero protecting the people from evildoers.

Yoshioka Kempo (dates unknown)
A distinguished warrior during the *Sengoku* period (1482-1558) and the founder of the renowned Yoshioka school of sword fighting. Yoshioka Kempo mastered the Kyohachi style of swordmanship and then modified it to form the Yoshioka style. In the context of Inoue's *VAGABOND,* as well as in Yoshikawa's *MUSASHI*, Yoshioka Seijuro and Denshichiro are Kempo's sons, who are historically thought to have dueled with Miyamoto Musashi on numerous occasions.

About the Author

VAGABOND was created by Takehiko Inoue, author of the best-selling manga *SLAM DUNK*, with over 100 million copies in print worldwide. Critically acclaimed, Inoue received the 2000 Media Arts Award for manga from the Japanese Ministry of Culture as well as the 2000 Kodansha Award for best manga for his work on *VAGABOND*. In 2002, *VAGABOND* received the prestigious Tezuka Award for best manga, and in 2003, Inoue was nominated for a 2003 Eisner Award for best writer/artist. While *VAGABOND* continues its epic run in Japan, Inoue is simultaneously pushing the bounds of manga narrative with *REAL*—a heavy-hitting manga about wheelchair basketball. To date *VAGABOND* has sold over 22 million copies throughout the world. In addition to his numerous manga titles, Inoue also created the character designs for the PlayStation basketball game, *ONE ON ONE*.

About *VAGABOND* and Miyamoto Musashi

Takehiko Inoue's *VAGABOND*, based on Eiji Yoshikawa's novel *MUSASHI*, is a fictional account of the life of Miyamoto Musashi (1584-1645). The historical figure Miyamoto Musashi, author of the philosophical strategy guide *A BOOK OF FIVE RINGS*, was a master of the sword and was revered as a "sword-saint." He founded the Niten Ichi style of sword fighting, which is typified by fighting with both long and short swords simultaneously—holding the long sword with the right hand and the short sword with the left. Musashi was also a master of the "gentler arts"—he was a master of *sumi-e* (black ink drawings), metalworking, and woodcarving. The films that comprise *THE SAMURAI TRILOGY*, directed by Hiroshi Inagaki and starring Toshiro Mifune, were also based on Yoshikawa's *MUSASHI*. Inspired by the huge success of *VAGABOND* in Japan, in 2003 NHK produced the historical period drama *MUSASHI*. Also based on Yoshikawa's novel, this drama stars kabuki actor Shinnosuke Ichikawa as Musashi and TV star Ryoko Yonekura as Otsu.

A note on names:

The names presented within the context of this manga are presented in the traditional Japanese order—surname followed by first name. "Miyamoto" is Miyamoto Musashi's last name and "Musashi" is his first name. The name of the creator of *VAGABOND*, however, has been presented first name first, last name second. "Takehiko" is the author's first name and "Inoue" is his last name.

Fp: Facebook.com/meganebuk